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i: DELHI I LUCKNOW I BHOPAL I BHUBANESWAR I RANCHI I RAIPUR I CHANDIGARH I DEHRADUN I HYDERABAD I VIJAYWADA

# **GYANESH KUMAR LIKELY TO BE NEW CEC OF INDIA**

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The selection committee by Pin. Narendra headed L Minister Modi, which met on Monday evening, is learnt to have recommended the name of the next chief election commissioner to President Droupadi Murmu. Election Commissioner Gvanesh Kumar, a senior most official of the three member panel, is expected to take over from Rajiv Kumar as Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India. Kumar's term ends on February 18 on attaining the age of 65 years.

This comes after the Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi asking the government to adjourn the meeting to select the new chief election commissioner until the Supreme Court hears on February 19 a petition on the constitution of the selection panel. The Congress' statement came soon after a meeting of the three-member selection committee.

Besides Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi are part of the panel which met here. Incumbent CEC Rajiv Kumar demits office on Tuesday on attaining the age of 65 years. Sources said the notification announcing the name of the next CEC could be issued "in the next few hours". The CEC's term can last up to six years from the date of appointment, though they must retire upon



turning sixty-five, regardless of senior-most commissioner. His tenure as whether their term has

concluded. This marks the first time a selection panel has been set up to appoint the head of the country's election watchdog. Earlier, there was no law passed by Parliament for the appointment of the CEC and ECs. The appointments were done by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. Traditionally, the successor to the incumbent CEC has been the next senior-most Election Commissioner. Seniority was usually defined by who was appointed earlier to the Commission.

However, a new law on the appointment of the CEC and ECs came into force last year under which a search committee shortlists five names from among secretarylevel officers for consideration and finalisation by the prime minister-led panel. After Rajiv Kumar, Gyanesh Kumar is the

Election Commissioner is until January 26, 2029. If Gyanesh Kumar is approved as the next CEC, a new EC could also be appointed to fill the vacancy created by his elevation. This marks the first time a selection panel has been set up to appoint the head of the country's election watchdog. The Election Commission (EC) is a three-member body

made up of one Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners. Although all three election commissioners are equal, the CEC, like the Chief Justice of India, is the first among equals.

According to sources, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was learnt to have asked the government to defer its decision till the Supreme Court hearing on a petition challenging the composition of the selection panel.

# C'garh records 75.86 pc voting in phase-1 Panchayat polls

#### STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh on Monday recorded 75.86 percent voters turnout in the first phase of a three-tier panchayat polls.

As many as 76.10 percent women voters exercised their franchise and 75.52 percent male voters cast their votes.

As many as 57,99,660 voters including 29,28,751 women and 50 transgenders were eligible to exercise their franchise in the first phase of the panchayat elections.

The elections for 149 Zila Panchayat Members, 911 Janpad Panchayat Members and 3,605 Gram Panchayat Sarpanch and 27,210 Panch were conducted in 53 development blocks of Chhattisgarh.

In the first phase, 60,203 candidates are in the fray for the posts of ward panch, 14,646 for sarpanch, 4,587 for



# High command will decide PCC chief fate: Bhupesh

### STAFF REPORTER

ongress national general secretary and Congress national generation of the party's Baghel said on Monday that the party's high command will decide fate of the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief. He refused to comment on speculations about the party's next state president, stating that it would be inappropriate for him to comment on what the high



In charge of Punjab last week.

During the urban body elections, Leader of Opposition Dr. Charandas Mahant had created a political stir by saying that the next assembly elections will be fought under the leadership of T S Singh Deo.

In his first reaction after becoming the Congress national General Secretary, Baghel said that he will go to Delhi and

express his gratitude to everyone and will discharge his responsibilities well.

Baghel said that he will attend a meeting of general secretaries called by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on February 19.

doctors declared him brought dead. The results for phase one elections will be announced on February 19. The second and third phase of panchayat polls will be

Janpad Panchayat members

and 702 for Zila Panchayat

tricts, was held between 6.45

was 7 am to 3 pm elsewhere.

tions were set up for the first

ly man collapsed and died

while standing in a queue to

was at polling booth number 2

him to a hospital where the

The authorities rushed

vote in Dhamtari district. Hinchha Ram Sahu (85)

The polling in the Bastar division, comprising seven dis-

And the polling timing

A total of 9,873 polling sta-

Amid the polling, an elder-

members.

am and 2 pm.

phase of polling.

in Dhamtari.

held on February 20 and 23 respectively. MARKETS





# SC to hear Places of Worship case in April



Dismissing fresh petitions, on which notices were not issued yet, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar said, "The writ petitioners can file an (intervention) application raising new grounds." "We are constrained his order after taking note of

# **Pitroda's China comment sparks row**

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

ongress Indian Overseas Cleader Sam Pitroda courted yet another controversy with his comments negating Chinese threat to India which brought him in line of fire by ruling BJP while Congress distanced itself from their celel brate

#### on China are most definitely NOT the views of the Indian National Congress," AICC general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh, said in a social media post.

Another BJP spokesperson Tuhin Sinha said, "Those who ceded away 40,000 square km of our land to na, still see no tl reat



# RAIPUR

command will decide next.

He was addressing media persons at Raipur airport before leaving for Delhi. He has been appointed General Secretary and

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Expressing displeasure over filing bear of several pleas on the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, the Supreme Court on Monday said a three-judge bench will hear in April the pending post-notice petitions related to the 1991 law which mandates the religious character of a place to be maintained as it existed on August 15, 1947, except in Ayodhya's Babri Masjid -Ram Mandir case. The top court, however, granted liberty to the petitioners like Samajwadi Party leader and Kairana MP Iqra Choudhary, who have filed the pleas recently and notices have not been issued on them, to file applications for intervention in pending ones by citing new legal grounds.

the number of fresh petitions filed. The pending writ petitions, which have no notices, stand dismissed with liberty to file an application raising additional grounds, if any. The new IA will only be allowed if there is any new point or new legal issue that has not been raised in the

"People keep on filing fresh petitions alleging that they have raised new grounds...It will become impossible for us to deal with the petitions besides whatever has already been filed," said CJI. The Bench then listed the batch of petitions and cross ones pertaining to the 1991 law in the week commencing April 1 before a threejudge bench.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave agreed to the bench and said no fresh plea be allowed on the issue. Another senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for one of the old petitioners, raised the issue of nonfiling of the response by the Centre to the petitions and said the last opportunity be given to the government for this purpose. Earlier in the day also, the CJI expressed displeasure over filing of many fresh cases.

leader.

The Congress leader, whose comments have been a frequent fodder for the BJP's attacks on the opposition party, is reported to have said that he does not understand the threat India faces from China, claiming that it is often blown out of proportion. Congress distanced itself from Pitroda's remarks, saying these are not the views of the party and that China remains India's foremost external security and economic challenge. Addressing press conference, BJP national

spokesperson and MF Sudhanshu Trivedi sought to draw a link between USbased Pitroda's remarks, USbased groups funding for "voter turnout" in India and the ruling party's charges against Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi for his alleged links to Pakistan.

Trivedi claimed that Pitroda's comments should not be seen in isolation as he recalled Rahul Congress leader

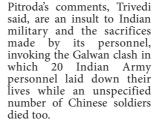
Gandhi's positive words in the past for China's growth story and the manner in which it tackled issues like

unemployment. What Pitroda has said is a severe blow to India's prestige, diplomacy and sovereignty, he said, accusing the veteran Congress functionary of speaking as if it is India which is the aggressor in the conflict with China.

"All these things make clear the agenda of harming India. The 'mohabbat ki dukan' of the Congress is for antinational forces be it George Soros or China," said Trivedi. The opposition party has nothing but a hateful agenda for India by pitting people against each other in the name of region, caste and language, he alleged. Pitroda, he said, has openly acknowledged the Congress agreement with China's ruling

party. "The views reportedly expressed by Mr Sam Pitroda

the Dragon.. No wonder Rahul Gandhi is in awe of China."



He said India wants good relations with every country, adding it will be, however, done by maintaining its prestige and security.

The BJP spokesperson also took up the issue of funding from the US-based ground into India for "voter turnout" and the ruling party's allegation against Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi for links to Pakistan to hit out at the opposition party. Asserting that there is no

ground left for the Congress to defend itself, he, however, demanded that the opposition party must come out with a clarification

Security personnel manage passengers boarding a train at the New Delhi Bailway Station

### **Rail minister promises** action on Delhi stampede

#### DEEPAK KUMAR JHA 📕 NEW DELHI

Tn his first reaction, two days after L the tragic stampede at New Delhi Railway Station, which claimed 18 lives, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw while regretting the 'unfortunate' incident said that investigations are going on and responsibility shall be fixed.

Simultaneously, Vaishnaw who held a second round of meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday, said action will be against the principle of natural justice till the time the inquiry report comes. "I have maintained a principle of 'We Fail'. So far as action is concerned, we have not taken any action against any official as we are waiting for the

inquiry committee to give its report. This is in line with the principle of natural justice," Vaishnaw stated.

On a question on the time frame for the committee to give its report, the railway minister said no time period has been fixed as it will put undue pressure on the committee members. Sources said that the Railway Minister and top brass was not given the correct status of the un-fateful day till two hours after the it happened on platform 14-15 on Saturday around 9 pm.

Well placed sources in Delhi Division of Northern Railway said that top officers of the division, including DRM, for more than an hour, maintained that the chaos was minor.

# **Snow delays Khelo India Winter Games**

#### MOHIT KANDHARI I JAMMU

n the absence of a thick Lblanket of snow at the famous Gulmarg Ski resort, the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council Monday decided to postpone the 5th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games, initially set for February 22-25, 2025. The Jammu and Kashmir Council

Sports also announced that a new assessment will be conducted once snow conditions improve, after which a revised schedule will be announced. According to official sources in the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, around 300 athletes were set to compete in four snow sports-ski mountaineering, alpine skiing, snowboarding, and Nordic

skiing-from February 22 to 25. "We have decided to postpone the event as key ski slopes lack sufficient snow," said Rauf Tramboo, president of the Winter Games Association of Kashmir. Jammu and Normally, the slopes receive seven to eight feet (about 2 meters) of snowfall, but this year's conditions have been unusually dry.

Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir have already witnessed a sudden rise in the day temperature by 2 to 4 degrees Ĉelsius. However, the weathermen have raised hopes by predicting a fresh spell of rain/snow in parts of Kashmir between February 19-20.

light to moderate rain/snow at many places from the 19th evening till the 20th of "The Plains of February". Kashmir & Jammu may According to the forecast, "Weather is expected to

remain generally cloudy with winds at a few places. Higher reaches of Chenab Valley & South Kashmir may receive moderate snowfall (6-10 inches) while higher reaches of North & Central Kashmir may receive light to moderate receive 4-8 inches of fresh Rain/Thunder with gusty snow". Jammu and Kashmir is

witnessing a currently prolonged winter dry spell with the Union Territory recording 79 percent rainfall deficit against the normal precipitation of 144 mm. In February so far, the UT has recorded just 29.8 mm rainfall as per official data. Baramulla has recorded a deficit between 70-79 percent this year. The dry spell has also taken a

toll on Kashmir's water bodies, with dozens of springs drying up, including one in the 17thcentury Mughal Garden in Achabal town, located south of Srinagar.

Meanwhile, several parts of Kashmir valley are already grappling with massive forest fires in the absence of fire adequate fighting measures in place.

### **UP school named after war** hero renamed, locals protest

#### BISWAJEET BANERJEE GHAZIPUR

The name of Param Vir Chakra awardee Shaheed Veer Abdul Hamid was removed from the main entrance of a primary school in Dhamupur village, sparking protests from his family and locals. Following their objections, the martyr's name was restored-but only on an external wall, not the main gate, leading to further controversy.

The school, previously known as 'Shaheed Abdul Hamid Vidyalaya,' was Hamid was Shri renamed 'PM Composite School' after a recent repainting, according to officials. Jameel Ahmed, Hamid's grandson, stated that the name was erased during the repainting work four days ago. When the family raised objections, headmaster Ajay Kushwaha directed them to approach Basic Education Officer (BSA) Hemant Rao.

Rao later assured the family that Abdul Hamid's name had been inscribed on one of the school's external walls, but the entrance continued to bear only the new name. Dissatisfied with the response, the family lodged another complaint on Saturday, demanding

that the martyr's name be reinstated at the entrance. Despite assurances from officials that the matter would be addressed immediately, as of Monday, the name remained missing from the main gate, leaving the family "deeply hurt."

Abdul Hamid is revered for his bravery during the 1965 Indo-Pak war, where he single-handedly destroyed three Pakistani Patton tanks, forcing the enemy to retreat. His valor earned him India's highest military decoration, the Param Vir Chakra, awarded posthumously to his wife, Rasoolan Bibi.



# Early morning earthquake shocks Delhi-NCR, causes panic

#### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

As a strong earthquake jolted Delhi and its adjoining areas in the early hours of Monday, many residents startled by strong jolts after a 4.0-magnitude earthquake struck the national capital and adjoining regions. Locals described the experience as unprecedented, with many fearing their buildings would collapse. The strong tremors prompted several residents of Delhi to rush out of their homes. Soon after the quake, netizens took to social media to share their experiences claiming the tremors were accompanied by an unusual noise which they described as "a wave in the ocean", "low growl" and that of a "cracker.

It was around 5:36 am on Monday and most of the residents in Delhi-NCR were asleep when strong tremors jolted them out of sleep and sent them running out of their houses in fear. The epicentre of the quake was in the Jheel Park area of Dhaula Kuan and there were some reports of people hearing a loud who was waiting at New Delhi

sound as the ground shook

Videos showed the ground shaking as people watched in horror. It felt as people watched in horror. It felt like the strongest earthquake that Delhi has experienced in years."I was standing in front of my dressing table when it started to shake heavily all of a sudden. At first, I thought it was due to some heaver trademention the need heavy truck passing by on the road, but then I realised it was an earthquake," a colleague said, adding that "there was also this rumbling sound." In another similar video, an electric wire can be seen shaking.

A woman in her 50s who was out on a morning walk in E Block of Noida Sector 20 said, "Hum log bahar park me walk kar rahe the toh pata nahin chala. Lekin kafi tej tha. Log bahar aa gaye. (We were walking in the park, so we didn't feel it strongly. But it was quite strong. People came rushing out)'." Naresh Kumar, a resident of West Delhi, said this was the first time that he had experienced such a strong tremor.Ratanlal Sharma,



Residents rush out of their houses as earthquake tremors hit Delhi-NCR, in New Delhi

railway station for a train to Prayagraj, said he was at the platform when he felt a sudden iolt."It felt like a train suddenly came to a screeching halt," he said. Taking to X, a user wrote the he "heard" the tremors for the first

time. He tweeted, "This is the first time I "heard" an earthquake ... what a shocker .. anyone else heard it too? Like a low growl ..(sic). Anil Kumar, a resident of Sita Ram Bazar, said he never experienced such tremors before. "I felt a strong

vibration and got scared. My wife and I immediately woke up our child and rushed outside," Kumar said. "I am a heart patient, so I panicked even more." he added. Another Sita Ram Bazar resident,

PTI

Sundar Lal, initially mistook the

noise for monkeys on the terrace. "At first, we thought there were monkeys on our terrace making noise but then we realised it was an earthquake, so we all ran outside," he said.

"It was a very strong earthquake, and we were all terrified. But thankfully it didn't last long," he added. The National Center for Seismology said the earthquake struck at a focal depth of five kilometres at 5:36 am. There were no immediate reports of any no immediate reports of any damage or injuries.

A CCTV footage from the Budh Vihar area showed that as soon as the earthquake struck, a car's horn blew as its alarm went off. Deepa, a resident of West Delhi, said she was jolted by the tremors and the loud sound. "A similar earthquake occurred in 2012 but this one felt more intense. We were all very scared," she said.

Anil, a resident of Nehru Nagar, said the moment he felt the tremor, he ran out of his house with his two-year-old daughter. "There was a loud sound and strong jolts. My

wife and I were very scared. The first thing we did was pick up our daughter and rush outside," he said. A passenger waiting for his train at the New Delhi Railway station described the tremors as a "bridge collapse". "I was in the waiting lounge. All rushed out from there. It felt as if any bridge or something had collapsed," he said.

nation 02

Another resident said, "Tremors were so strong. Felt like a train was moving nearby. Everything was shaking. I have never felt like this ever before. The entire building was shaking.'

Shaking. Shortly after the quake, the Delhi police urged citizens to call the emergency 112 helpline for emergencies. "We hope you all are safe, Delhi," they wrote on X.

safe, Delhi, they wrote on X. Caretaker Delhi Chief Minister Atishi said she prayed for everyone's safety after the earthquake. "A strong earthquake just hit Delhi. I pray to God that everyone is safe," she said. Decharing Atichi's poet A AP chief Resharing Atishi's post, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal said, "I pray for the safety of everyone."

### Vijender Gupta defends BJP against AAP's allegations of financial mismanagement

#### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $B_{\rm former}^{\rm JP}$  MLA from Rohini and former Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta on Monday dismissed the allegations made by Delhi's caretaker Chief Minister Atishi, in which she claimed that the BJP has emptied the coffers of the Municipal Corporation and

the Delhi government. He also took a jibe at Atishi, saying that her accusations are a result of her frustration and desperation. She is in shock over her party's defeat and has not yet come to terms with it. With key AAP leaders like Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Satyendar Jain, and Saurabh Bharadwaj losing the elections, Atishi is feeling isolated, which is why she is making baseless allegations

against the BJP. Out of 62 AAP MLAs, 13 lost their assembly seats. This has made Atishi anxious, as she is now worried about how she will face the ruling party's AAP's when questions corruption is exposed in the Assembly, Gupta said.

He said if there is a financial crisis in the Municipal Corporation, the AAP government itself is responsible for it. The primary reason for the corporation's unstable condition is the

misdeeds, AAP is blaming the BJP. Gupta stated that in the ten years, AAP's last misgovernance and involvement in corruption have left public issues unaddressed, while all its energy was spent on looting the treasury. However, the BJP government will soon work towards streamlining the treasury and eliminating the revenue deficit.

Gupta also mentioned that even though the BJP government has not yet been officially formed in Delhi, officially formed in Delhi, development works have already begun, including the swift launch of the Yamuna river cleaning project. Cleaning the Yamuna is one of the key priorities outlined in BJP's manifesto, which is why work on this project commenced even before the government's formation government's formation. He further refuted claims of

elections, stating that Atishi

should be aware that power

to

### Delhi to revamp sewage plants, prevent flow into Yamuna STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $T^{\rm he\,Delhi\,government\,will\,make\,all}_{\rm the\,sewage\,treatment\,plants\,in\,the}$ city, including six that are being newly set up, fully functional to com-pletely check the flow of sewage and industrial effluents into the Yamuna in the next two years, and clean the river by December 2027, Additional Chief Secretary Navin Chaudhary said on Monday.

During a visit to oversee the work to clean the Yamuna, Chaudhary, who is in charge of the irrigation and flood control department, said commitments have been made at the highest level for cleaning the river in three years.

The entire 57-km stretch of the Yamuna in Delhi, from Haryana where it enters the city to the Uttar Pradesh border where it exits, will be cleaned, he said. Addressing a celebratory gathering over the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) victory in the recent Delhi Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said the Yamuna, suffering from heavy pollution, will be cleaned no matter how much effort or time it takes.

celebrates founder's day power outages in Delhi's residential areas after the STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Chaudhary said three-four things, including the removal of trash and weed, and checking the flow of untreated sewage and industrial effluents through fully-functional sewage treatment plants (STPs), need to be ensured to clean the river. "Seven machines have been deployed to remove solid waste, water hyacinth and weed from the river and this work will go on for the next few months," he said.

Parallelly, the target is to modernise and reboot around a dozen STPs and complete the construction of six such plants by the end of 2026, he told reporters. "Strict action will be taken if any

untreated sewage is found discharged into the Yamuna when all the STPs are fully functional by December 2026," Chaudhary said. Concrete steps will be taken to check the flow of industrial effluents into the river, for which the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the industry department will work together, he added.

"Industrial units releasing untreated effluents into the Yamuna will have



Additional Chief Secretary Navin Chaudhary with other officials on the bank of Yamuna

to shut down," the additional chief secretary warned.

It will also be ensured that the common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) in industrial areas are working properly, he added. Public awareness will be created to

prevent people from immersing idols, throwing calenders and such other items into the river. "We will specify places where they can deposit such items, to be later respectfully immersed in a proper way," Chaudhary said.

Around 28 to 30 big drains pour untreated wastewater into the Yamuna. The biggest ones are the Najafgarh and Barapulla drains. Scores of smaller drains join these drains carrying untreated water into the river, the officer said.

ceremony is anticipated to be

a grand occasion, with an expected audience of between 12,000 and 16,000 residents

diplomats from multiple

expected to be finished in next

couple of days," he said.

Delhi, alongside

are

#### New CM, Cabinet to be sworn-in on Thursday Hindu college

#### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $T^{he next chief minister of}_{\ Delhi along with the council of ministers is likely to take}$ oath at the iconic Ramlila Maidan on February 20. The Delhi University's Hindu ceremony is expected to be held at around 4 30 pm and is likely to be attended by top BJP leaders, including chief ministers from the party-ruled states, the sources said. A BJP legislative party meeting, which was to be held on Monday, has been postponed to most likely Wednesday when the party will finalise the candidate for the chief minister's post, they said. The Ramlila Maidan, which can accommodate around 30,000 people, was being spruced up on Monday with its boundary walls getting a fresh coat of paint and workers cleaning the sprawling ground, and the pavements and roads around

"The layout of the tents, including a VIP block for dignitaries, is being finalised. Around one lakh people are expected to be inside and outside the venue to celebrate the BJP's victory in Delhi after 26 years," a source said. Whenever the Prime M Narendra Modi's meeting, and that of the legislative party, are held, and whomever is chosen, what is certain is the BIP is planning on a mega swearing-in ceremony for its new Delhi government at Ramlila Maidan. To manage the preparations for the ceremony, BJP General Secretaries Vinod Tawde and Tarun Chugh have been designated as the incharge officials. The ceremony is anticipated to be a grand occasion, with an expected audience of between 12,000 and 16,000 residents from Delhi, alongside diplomats from multiple nations and



AAP government's failure to constitute the Sixth Delhi Finance Commission, which is responsible for the financial management of the Municipal Corporation

He termed Atishi's allegations as laughable and pointed out that AAP has been in power in the corporation since 2022, vet it has failed to deliver. The Municipal Corporation is responsible for cleanliness, waste management, and sewage issues, but AAP has neglected these essential duties despite being in power. Similarly, Delhi's treasury has also been emptied due to AAP's corruption. Now, in an attempt to cover up its

have compan clarified that there are no scheduled power cuts. Gupta called such allegations baseless and attributed them Atishi's deteriorating mental state, comparing her reactions to "a frustrated cat scratching a post." He asserted that lying is ingrained in AAP's DNA, and for the last ten years, the party has misled the public by running a propaganda-based said.

government. However, that propaganda machine has now collapsed, and with AAP leaders effectively "unemployed, they are resorting to such accusations merely to grab media attention, he said. skill training program.

d its 126tl Founder's Day on Monday, with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan praising the institution's "pioneering spirit" in education, innovation, and social impact. The event, held in honour of

late Krishna Dass Gurwale, was attended by Delhi University Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh as the guest of honor, an official statement of the Hindu College

Pradhan congratulated the college community for its continued excellence and highlighted its role in shaping future leaders. He specifically commended the college's fragrance formulation

failing to name a Chief Minister even 10 days after

the election results, calling it

proof that Prime Minister

Narendra Modi doesn't trust

various religious figures. Delhi BJP president Virendra

Preparations underway for Delhi Chief Minister's oath-taking ceremony at Ramlila

Sachdeva also visited the The swearing in ceremony Ramlila Maidan to assess the preparations. Sources said that meeting was also convened to related to the discuss legislative party meeting to draw significant attendance, including Prime which is scheduled on Wednesday.

nations and various religious figures. Though senior party leaders are tight-lipped about the preparations but they claimed that arrangements Ranjan Dimri underway at the historic Ramlila ground. "On Monday, will be attended by Prime we ensured arrival of items for Minister Narendra Modi, his setting up of stage and sitting Work to senior cabinet colleagues arrangements. organise them will start from besides top party leaders. The Tuesday and everything is swearing-in event is expected

from

#### **BJP** questions Atishi AAP slams BJP over CM delay on reckless allegations STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

#### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

 $D_{\mathrm{Virendra}}^{\mathrm{elhi}\ \mathrm{BJP}\ \mathrm{President}}$ Monday expressed regret that even while holding the position of Acting Chief Minister, Atishi continues to disregard the dignity of her office by making reckless statements. Making this assertion during a news conference, he also said when Atishi was appointed as Chief Minister, she placed an empty chair beside her, and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal repeatedly referred to her as "temporary CM," th thus undermining the dignity of the Chief Minister's office.

Sachdeva questioned why Atishi is now concerned about the Chief Minister's position when, for five months while Kejriwal was in jail, the position was left leaderless without any concern from her.

He further criticized her for misusing her position as Acting Chief Minister by making baseless allegations,

ranging from power cuts in Delhi to accusations of looting against newly elected

BJP MLAs. Sachdeva reiterated that Opposition.

the BIP

is true that senior and multiple-term MLAs like Mateen Ahmed, Gopal Rai, Sanjeev Jha, Kuldeep Kumar, and Jarnail Singh, along with politically connected MLAs like Ale Mohammad and Punardeep Singh Sahni, are unwilling to accept her as the Leader of the Opposition. Delhi BJP Preside President concluded by advising Atishi to focus on strengthening

Taking a dig at the BJP over its delay in selecting a chief minister for the national capital, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders on Monday said slammed the BJP for

while Atishi may have won her MLA seat again, she lacks a political foundation and the fighting spirit necessary for a Leader of the

challenged her to He respond to the internal power struggles within the AAP before commenting on alleged internal disputes in

any of his 48 MLAs. The AAP leaders also predicted the BJP has "no face" to run the government and Delhi could again see three different Chief Ministers in the next five

Atishi must clarify whether it vears like before. Addressing a press conference, AAP leader and Delhi's acting Chief Minister Atishi said the BJP for having no leadership, vision, or roadmap for Delhi. "It's been 10 days since the election results were announced. People thought that the BJP would declare its chief minister and the cabinet on February 9 and begin developmental works immediately. But it is now her own political standing before making remarks clear that they have no face to about the BJP. run Delhi," she said.



Delhi acting CM Atishi Ranjan Dimri

Atishi claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not trust any of the 48 BJP MLAs elected in Delhi and alleged that the party has no vision or plan for governance. "The BJP knows that all they will do is loot the people of Delhi. If they don't have anyone capable of running the government, how will they work for people?" she asked.

press separate In a conference, Rai said the BJP despite its decisive victory is works struggling to choose a leader, reflecting deep internal divisions within the party. "Even after 10 days, they are not able to choose a CM, which shows they do not have a face. The reality is that

a face. The reality is that history could repeat itself and we may see three chief ministers in the next five years just as it happened during the last BJP government in Delhi," he

said. The AAP leader also accused the BJP of internal power struggles, suggesting that whoever becomes the CM will face resistance from other

factions within the party. "The indecision over the CM's post shows how many power groups are working within the BJP. No matter who is chosen, the other groups will try to disrupt their leadership and history will repeat itself," he said.

On the question of AAP's Leader of Opposition, Rai said that the party would make a decision only after the BJP declares its chief minister and the cabinet.

The political battle between the AAP and the BJP is set to intensify, with the saffron party's leadership indecision adding to the speculation of internal conflicts.

## SC directs CBI inquiry into illegal buildings in Chandni Chowk

#### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday indicated that it may order a CBI probe into alleged illegal constructions in the busy Chandni Chowk area of Delhi and failure of the MCD to check it.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh expressed its concern and blamed the inaction of officials of Municipal Corporation of check Delhi to the unauthorised constructions in the commercial hub of the city. "We are inclined to order a CBI investigation into these constructions and involvement of officials in allowing the builders to construct these structures. Builders construct these buildings and you shut your eyes," Justice Surya Kant observed.

The counsel appearing for the MCD said the alleged unauthorized construction has been removed pursuant to the orders of the Delhi High



Court, where matter is still

pending. Justice Surya Kant said, "When someone comes with a PIL, then suddenly you wake up... The high court unfortunately does not even allow petitioners to say something and suddenly closes the case based on your statement. We will direct the CBI to investigate everything." The bench asked the petitioner to serve the notice to the parties, who have not been served and posted the matter for further hearing next week. It said, "This matter requires not only the inspection of the site by an expert team,

including the measurements, the affairs of the municipal corporation would also need to be gone into for permitting illegal and unauthorized commercial constructions apparently for extraneous considerations. There shall be a show cause as to why a deeper probe should not be ordered."

The bench told the petitioner, who appeared in-person, that it cannot pass orders without hearing the other side and asked her to suggest names of some independent persons like architects and engineers for the constitution of a committee that can go and inspect the site.

The top court was hearing a plea challenging two orders of the Delhi High Court including one relating to removal of unauthorized construction at Bagh Deewar, Fatehpuri of Chandni Chowk area which was disposed of on the statements of the MCD that illegal structures have been removed.



# chhattisgarh 03

#### RAIPUR | TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 18, 2025

### Delhi Assembly results made impact | CM hails peaceful panchayat elections in restive Bastar in C'garh urban bodies polls: Dy CM

#### STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

hhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao claimed on Monday that the impact of Delhi Assembly elections was in the urban body elections in the state.

Sao made the remark while addressing media persons here and thanked the people for the massive mandate in the municipal elections.

The BJP achieved a landslide victory, winning all 10 municipal corporations, 35 municipalities out of 49, and 81 nagar panchayats out of 114 for urban body elections for voting was held on February 11 & results were declared on February 15.

He said that the support base of BJP is continuously growing as the party has

secured 55.41 percent votes in the urban body elections. He added that Congress party is consistent in its

He claimed that BJP candidates would also win in the panchayat elections to



gave him pleasure that in more

than 130 polling booths in Maoist affected Sukma and

Dantewada, voters have

exercised their franchise after

village of dreaded Maoist

Hidma Purvarti, where people have voted enthusiastically, he

"This also includes the

a period of 40 years.

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

hhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Monday expressed satisfaction that the Panchayat polls in restive Bastar were held peacefully.

In a statement, Sai said it

Registered Office: HDFC Bank House. HDFC BANK Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), We understand your world Mumbai - 400 013 and having one of its office as Retail Portfolio Management at HDFC Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, I-Think Techno Campus,

#### Kanjurmarg (East), Mumbai - 400042. SALE INTIMATION AND PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF SECURITIES PLEDGED TO HDFC BANK LTD.

The below mentioned Borrowers of HDFC Bank Ltd. (the "Bank") are hereby notified regarding the sale of securities pledged to the Bank, for availing credit facilities in the nature of Loan/Overdraft Against Securities

Due to persistent default by the Borrowers in making repayment of the outstanding dues as per agreed loan terms, the below loan accounts are in delinquent status. The Bank has issued multiple notices to these Borrowers, including the final sale notice on the elow-mentioned date whereby, Bank had invoked the pledge and provided 7 days' time to the Borrower to repay the entire outstanding dues in the below accounts, failing which. Bank would be at liberty to sell the pledged securities without issuing further otice in this regard.

The Borrowers have neglected and failed to make due repayments, therefore, Bank in exercise of its rights under the loan agreement as a pledgee has decided to sell / dispose off the Securities on or after 25th February, 2025 for recovering the dues owed by the Borrowers to the Bank. The Borrowers are, also, notified that, if at any me, the value of the pledged securities falls further due to volatility in the stock market to create further deficiency in the margin requirement then Bank shall at its discretion sell the pledged security within one (1) calendar day, without any furthe notice in this regard. The Borrower(s) shall remain liable to the Bank for repayment of any remaining outstanding amount, post adjustment of the proceeds from sale of

pleaged securities.									
Sr. No.		Borrower's Name	Outstanding Amount as on 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb., 2025	Date of Sale Notice					
1	XXXX0019	ANITA AGARWAL	34,423.46	15-02-2025					
2	XXXX1417	RANJAY KUMAR SINGH	43,324.69	15-02-2025					
3	XXXX3232	GOPI VIJAY	17,777.43	15-02-2025					
4	XXXX0060	GAURAV SINHA	2,24,474.02	15-02-2025					
5	XXXX1192	RANU SAHU	9,84,376.76	15-02-2025					
6	XXXX2079	POOJA SURYAWANSHI	4,25,778.56	15-02-2025					
7	XXXX7695	RAMA SETH	6,46,859.38	15-02-2025					
8	XXXX7502	MAHENDRA KUMAR SAHU	9,98,066.82	15-02-2025					
	Date : 18.02.2025 Sd/- Place : Chhattisgarh HDFC BANK LTD.								



PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loar accounts will be conducted online through Shriram Automall India Limited on their online auction platform https://gold.samil.in on 22.02.2025 between 02:00 P.M to 05:00 P.M. Change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the E-Auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date on the auction platform and/or auction center with same terms and conditions. The unauctioned gold ornaments shall be auctioned on subsequent working days after displaying the details on auction platform and/or auction center. In case the auction at Branch level fails, the same will be reauctioned on 05.03.2025 without any further notice at district level at the specified district centre. If for any reason, the district level auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the district level auction on any subsequent date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir.

said. "It has been possible due to the establishment of more than 40 new security camps in the region and because of which the Maoists were not able to oppose the election work", he said.

Sai described the smooth Panchayat elections in Bastar 'a victory of Gantantra over "Our double engine government is putting 'last nail on the coffin of Maoism'. Gun-Tantra.



CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797 Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604 Tel: (91-22) 41035000 · Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com · Website: www.iifl.com

Shah", Sai said.

It was sure that the red menace

would be eliminated by March

2026 as promised by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and

Union Home Minister Amit

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### District Centre: Raipur-Pandri - IIFL Gold Loan, 1st Floor, Usha Tower, Above Andhra Bank, Near Mandi Gate Pandri, Vidhan Sabha Road, Raipur Pin - 492004 (Chattisgarh)

Branch Name: RAIPUR-BUDHAPARA GL, Taluka - Raipur

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL28782925, GL30980690, GL33899381, GL33930016, GL33940403

#### Branch Name: RAIPUR-PANDRI, Taluka - Raipur

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL24065888, GL25733060, GL26924854, GL28290450, GL29769148, GL29933185, GL30115850, GL30390438, GL30945908, GL33385939 GL33443802 GL33450462 GL33754439 GL33920387 GL33933620 GL33938228 Branch Name: RAIPUR-SUNDER NAGAR MAIN ROAD GL, Taluka - Raipur.

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23705863, GL25108121, GL26094447, GL26160006 GL27539510. GL27577769. GL27617098. GL27879181. GL28030771. GL28124939. GL30619078, GL31636747, GL31713167, GL31733183, GL31747652, GL31748144, GL31753914, GL31756034, GL31756456, GL33106204, GL33732408 Branch Name: RAIPUR-TELIBANDA, Taluka - Raipur

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL28170511, GL28522967, GL28775178, GL30870089 GL31548371, GL31741519, GL32753169, GL333336034, GL33877557, GL33886422

The E-Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. The E-Auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such E-Auction shall be subject to terms and conditions as IIFL may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any o impose. IF-L at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any or accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaultion berge refer to the same the other dura induction and the respective branch. defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any. For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the con office of IIFL Finance Limited.





CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797 Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area



Man held for making

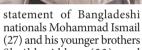
bogus documents for

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

The Anti-Terrorist Squad **L** (ATS) of Chhattisgarh Police on Monday arrested Raipur based 50-year-old man who prepared forged documents for the three Bangladeshi nationals dur-

ing their illegal stay here. Mohammad Arif of Nayapara locality in Raipur city has been taken into custody, Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police Lal allegedly made bogus birth Umed Singh said. certificates using fake mark

Mohammad Arif, who



(27) and his younger brothers Sheikh Akbar (23) and Sheikh Sajan (22) who were arrested from Mumbai on February 10, the official said. The three were apprehended for staying in Chhattisgarh capital illegally and planned Iraq after to travel to obtaining visas using forged documents from Mohamamd Arif. Mohammed Arif had



### F-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

#### PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted online through **Shriram Automall India Limited** on their online auction platform https://gold.samil.in on 22.02.2025 between 02:00 P.M to 05:00 P.M. Change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the E-Auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date on the auction platform and/or auction center with same terms and conditions. The unauctioned gold prnaments shall be auctioned on subsequent working days after displaying the details on auction platform and/or auction center. In case the auction at Branch level fails, the same will be reauctioned on 05.03.2025 without any further notice at district level at the specified district centre. If for any reason, the district level auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the district level auction on any subsequent date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir.

District Centre: Korba-Power House Road - IIFL Gold Loan, Ground Floor, Narmada Tower, Power House Road, Near Sonaliya Jwellers, Korba Pin -495677 (Chattisgarh).

#### Branch Name: KORBA-POWER HOUSE ROAD, Taluka - Korba

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23823312, GL27472453, GL27909351, GL30525924 GL31018501, GL32730292, GL32739341, GL32900335, GL32919866, GL33050620 GL33109425, GL33157370, GL33174853, GL33362022, GL33487596, GL33560036 GL33671634, GL33675626, GL33686570, GL33708076, GL33814889

The E-Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. The E-Auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such E-Auction shall be subject to terms and conditions as IIFL may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Fina

performance in Delhi assembly elections as it failed to open an account for the accelerate development. three consecutive elections.

025

owns a computer centre named as 'Satkar Computer' in Kutchery Chowk, has been nabbed based on the

Will double

income of cattle

rearers: CM Sai

sheets for the three during their stay in Raipur. Then, the former made Aadhaar cards, PAN cards and voter IDs using forged documents.

Date: 18.02.2025 Place: KORBA

▣;;;□ AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

**IIFL FINANCE LIMITED** 

况 बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Regional Office, Jeevan Prakash.L.I.C. Building, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.) PH.:0771-4222635, Mail: operations.raipur@bankofbaroda.com Bank of Baroda

#### Information For Customers Having Lockers

This is for the information of valued patrons who have taken lockers on rent at Bank of Baroda Branch and not paid rent timely, the notices sent as per the Bank's guidelines to the Renters at their recorded addresses but no response received. Now this final notice is given to all the persons named below for contacting the respective branch and to clear the dues of the bank within a period of 15 days, failing which the bank will proceed to break open the locker on 11.03.2025 at 01:00 P.M. at their cost, risk and responsibility and the bank will exercise its right of lien on inventory for recovery of outstanding rent, costs and other charges.

Name of Branch & Phone	Locker Holder's Name & Address	Locker No.	Due Amount	Due Date	
Rainur	Mr. Gurmeet Singh Juneja Mrs. Sita Rani Juneja Add.: Juneja Enterprises Fafadih Chowk, Raipur, C.G.	Locker No. 0510AX0154 (Old-175)	Rs.12,449.00 +Break Open + Other Charges	01.01.2022	
Vivekanand Nagar Branch, Raipur 9752410761 Manish Shah & Sons C-114, Tagore Nagar, Raipur - 492001, C.G.			Rs.11,099.84 +Break Open + Other Charges	16.01.2022	

State Bank of India

Chief Date:18.02.2025, Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh

SI

S. Name of the Borrower

& Address

are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

**¬**hhattisgarh Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said on Monday that his government was taking steps to strengthen the dairy industry and double the income of farmers and cattle rearers.

STAFF REPORTER

RAIPUR

To make milk production a profitable business and to make the state self-reliant in it, a pilot project has been prepared in collaboration with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), he informed.

He said this while reviewing the works of the Husbandry Animal Department in Nava Raipur.

The government will invest Rs 5 crore for the implementation of this project.

Initially it will be implemented into six districts, then expanded to all districts of the state based on a positive outcome.

H.L.C.- ZONAL OFFICE, BYRON BAZAR, RAIPUR (C.G) Ph:-0771-4040349 | Fax: 0771-4040334 **DEMAND NOTICE** A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower/s (Borrower) and (Co-borrower) have defaulted in repayment of principal and terest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known address, but they have been returned unserved and as such they Details of Properties / Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced Outstand Notice Date of NPA (As on the dat of notice) BORROWER- MR. DEVANSHU All that part and parcel of the property consisting of 12.11.2024 Rs. 23,15,553.00 SHUKLA S/o MR. HARISH Residential Plot and House situated at Geekay Township, 24.10.2024 + Intt. + othe 

 KUMAR SHUKLA. ADD-OPPOSITE KAMAL KIRANA, GALI NO-3, NEAR MAHAMAYA BANDIR, PURANI BASTI, BAUDIR, CO)
 Residential Plot and Plots an

RAIPUR (C.G.) The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and/or their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeen

the secured assets. Date: 18.02.2025, Place: Raipur

Authorized Officer, State Bank of India

### District Centre: Bhilai-Risali GL - IIFL Gold Loan, Krishna Talkies Road, In Front Of Raja Steels, Risali, Bhilai, Durg 490006.

#### Branch Name: BHILAI-POWER HOUSE CHOWK GL, Taluka - Durg.

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL24084738, GL24192708, GL25632436, GL27892257, GL28291343, GL30614244, GL31695888, GL32489813, GL33126994, GL33214805, GL33250917, GL33700914, GL33707332, GL33808453, GL33821491, GL33845203, GL33859227, GL33879929, GL33887502, GL33900627, GL33919393, GL33929879, GI 33937916 GI33940355

#### Branch Name: BHILAI-RISALI GL, Taluka - Durg.

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL30680918, GL31923288, GL31934401, GL32995768, GL33018811, GL33555976, GL33960757, GL33964537, GL33989835

Branch Name: BHILAI-SUPELA GL, Taluka - Durg.

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL30245004, GL30392553, GL32329817, GL32727203, GL32765665, GL33042672, GL33226727, GL33313609, GL33368411, GL33449322, GL33459414, GL33474358, GL33638682, GL33766018, GL33903631, GL33937052, GL33945667, GL33964056, GL33964244, GL33983850, GL33991050.

#### Branch Name: DURG-DURG-STATION ROAD, Taluka - Durg.

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23748135, GL24768388, GL27214544, GL32490419, GL32782635, GL32801239, GL33071969, GL33084895, GL33438963, GL33457889, GL33780426, GL33926445, GL33939616

The E-Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS". "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation of warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. The E-Auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such E-Auction shall be subject to terms and conditions as IIFL may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers withou assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which with pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate ublication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the conce office of IIFL Finance Limited.

Sd/ AUTHORISED SIGNATORY IIFL FINANCE LIMITED

Date: 18.02.2025

Place: BILASPURCGH



Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

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District Centre: Bilaspur-Bus Stand Road - IIFL Gold Loan, Shop No. Od 1.2.3, 1St Floor Chattisgarh Complex, Telephone Exchange Road, Opp. Hotel The Emerald, Bus Stand Road, Bilaspur Pin -495001 (Chattisgarh)

#### Branch Name: BILASPUR-BUS STAND ROAD, Taluka - Bilaspur.

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL24064261, GL25302472, GL25315295, GL28016386, GL28202580, GL28202650, GL28806270, GL28974382, GL30333004, GL30784186, GL30847774, GL31083062, GL31386552, GL31509683, GL31919761, GL32818849, GL32841325, GL32888898, GL32930576, GL32997984, GL33188936, GL33503484, GL33537572, GL33724059, GL33733553, GL33756667, GL33884059

#### Branch Name: BILASPUR-SARKANDA GL, Taluka - Bilaspur

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL29410268, GL29495860, GL30413606, GL31083176, GL31699835, GL33422452, GL33438006, GL33481598, GL33528893, GL33831082, GL33989214.

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# **Qatar's Amir to strengthen ties** with India in two-day state visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, who is scheduled to pay a state visit to India on February 17-18, will meet President Droupadi Murmu and hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday.

According to a media advi-sory issued by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday, he is expected to arrive in New Delhi later this evening. His visit will provide "further momentum to our growing multifaceted partnership", the MEA had said in a statement on Saturday. He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including ministers, senior officials and a business delegation, it said.

According to the media advisory, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will call on him on Monday evening after his arrival.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives the Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani upon his arrival in India. in New Delhi

On Tuesday morning, the Rashtrapati Bhawan, which House. He will hold talks Amir of Qatar will be will be followed by his meet- with Prime Minister Modi, accorded a ceremonial wel-come at the forecourt of the Modi at the Hyderabad the bilateral relations, the

MEA said in the statement on Saturday.

Exchange of MoUs are scheduled on Tuesday afternoon after which the Amir of Qatar will meet President Murmu, as per the advisory. His visit comes at the invitation of Prime Minister Modi. This would be the second state visit of the Amir of Qatar to India. He earlier visited India in March 2015, the MEA earlier said. India and Qatar have deep-

rooted historical ties of friendship, trust and mutual respect. In recent years, the ties between the two countries, including in the areas of trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people ties, have continued to strengthen. The Indian community residing in Qatar forms the largest expatriate community of Qatar, and is "appreciated for its positive contribution in the progress and development of Qatar", it said earlier.

## India, Bangladesh holds kye border talks amid tentions

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Ahigh-level delegation of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), the border guarding force of the neighbouring country, reached Delhi on Monday for bilateral talks on issues like fencing and attacks on Border Security Force(BSF)personnel and civilians by Bangladeshi miscreants, officials said

The 55th Director General-Level Border Coordination Conference between the two forces will be held at the Border Security Force (BSF) headquarters here on Tuesday.

The Bangladeshi delegation reached India onboard a flight and they will be here till February 20. Apart from participating in the bi-annual talks, they may also call on some senior Union home ministry authorities, the officials said. This is the first top-level meeting between the two border guarding forces after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in August last year. The Indian delegation is led by BSF Director General (DG) Daljit Singh Chawdhary while the visiting Bangladeshi team is headed by



BGB DG Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui.

The BSF said in a statement last week that the conference is being organised to discuss borderrelated issues and improve coordination between the border guarding forces. Discussions will be held on preventing attacks on BSF personnel and Indian civilians by Bangladesh-based miscreants/nationals as well as trans-border crimes, construction of single row fence, action against Indian Insurgent Groups in Bangladesh, issues related to border infrastructure, joint efforts for effective implementation of Coordinated Border Management Plan, Confidence Building Measures and other issues, it had said. The last edition of these bi-

nation 04

annual talks was held in Dhaka in March last year.

The 4,096 km long India-Bangladesh boundary spans across five states - West Bengal (2,217 km), Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Assam (262 km) and Mizoram (318 km). The BSF is designated as the lead security and intelligencegathering agency for this front. The ties between the two countries came under some stress after the neighbours summoned each other's high commissioners in December last year over the construction of the border fence by India and some other issues.

# SC orders UP authorities to explain Mosque demolition amid contempt allegations

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed Uttar Pradesh authorities to respond as to why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them for razing a portion of a mosque at Kushinagar in alleged disobedience of the apex court's direction. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih also directed that until further orders, there shall be no demolition of the structure in question.

The bench passed the order while hearing a contempt plea against the authorities concerned in Kushinagar for their alleged wilful disobedience and failure to comply with the top court's November 13 last year directions.

In its November 13, 2024 verdict, the top court laid down pan-India guidelines and barred demolition of properties without a prior show cause notice and 15 days' time to the aggrieved party to respond.

The fresh petition, filed through advocate Abdul Qadir Abbasi, said the authorities had demolished the outer and



Photo: File photo

front area of the Madni mosque gious contempt" of the direcin Kushinagar on February 9. tions issued by the apex court in its November last year judge-Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the ment. "Issue notice as to why propetitioners, said the structure in ceedings for contempt should question was constructed on a not be initiated against the private land owned by the petitioners

respondents," the bench said and posted the matter for hear-He said the construction was ing after two weeks. with due sanction of municipal "It is further directed that until authorities according to a sanction order of 1999. further orders, there shall be no Ahmadi argued that the demodemolition of the structure," the lition was carried out in "egretop court said.

At the outset, the bench told Ahmadi that the apex court was asking the petitioners alleging contempt in demolition matters to approach the jurisdictional high courts with their grievances.

While referring to the direc-tions issued by the top court in its last year verdict, the senior advocate said, "Please see the manner in which they have demolished this (structure)." September 1999 by the nagar panchayat, Hata. The plea alleged that the demo-

the guidelines issued by the top court.

It claimed the authorities failed to provide the mandatory opportunity of a hearing to the petitioners before proceeding with the demolition. "This act of proceeding with-

out affording opportunity of hearing is a violation of the fundamental principles of natural justice, which were explicitly expected to be followed by the authorities, as outlined in the directions issued by this court," the plea said.

'The administration, by taking such an action in haste, has shown complete disregard for the religious sentiments of the local Muslim community, who rely on this structure for their religious practices," it said. The plea said the land on

which the mosque was build upon was purchased by the petitioners through registered sale deeds dated June 29, 1988, March 28, 1989, June 30, 1989 and February 23, 2013. It said the map for construction of mosque was sanctioned in

lition was carried out without following the due legal process and in clear contravention of plaint in December last year claiming encroachment of the

land in question. It said the SDM of Hata had carried out an inspection and filed a detailed report which said there was no encroachment by the petitioners. The plea sought direction to

the authorities to maintain status quo at the mosque.

It also sought directions for restoration or suitable compensation to rectify the situation caused by the demolition. Passing a slew of directions, the apex court in its November 2024 verdict made clear that they would not be applicable in case of unauthorised structures in a public spaces such as roads, streets, footpaths, abutting railway lines or a river or water bodies apart from cases where there was a court order for demolition.

'No demolition should be carried out without a prior show cause notice returnable either in accordance with the time provided by the local municipal laws or within 15 days time from the date of service of such notice, whichever is later," said the top court verdict.

### BJP has highest income share among national parties: ADR report



BJP campaign

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The BJP reported the highest L income among national parties in the financial year 2023-24, declaring total earnings of ₹4,340.47 Crore, accordpoll rights body Association of Democratic Reforms(ADR). The amount accounted for 74.57 per cent of the total income of six national parties during the period under review, the report by ADR said. A large portion of the income for national parties came from donations through electoral bonds. "The BJP declared a total income of ₹4,340.473 Crore during FY 2023-24 but spent only 50.96 per cent of it, amounting to ₹2,211.69 Crore. The total income of Congress was ₹1,225.12 Crore, while its expenditure for the year was

festly arbitrary" in May last year. As per the data shared by the State Bank of India in response to an RTI application filed by the ADR, ₹4,507.56 Crore worth of electoral bonds were redeemed by various political parties in the 2023-24 fiscal. e national parties a

Photo: File photo



### Delhi government to challenge acquittals in 1984 anti-Sikh riots cases

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Monday informed the Supreme Court that it will file

six appeals challenging acquittals in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots cases.

The court was hearing a PIL filed by former Shiromani Gurudwara Prabhandak Committee member S Gurlad Singh Kahlon. In 2018, the apex court on his plea constituted an SIT to probe 199 cases where investigations stood closed.

On Monday, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Delhi government, told a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan that a decision has been taken to challenge acquittals in the top court. Taking note of the submission,

the bench directed the Delhi government to file the appeals in six weeks and said the special leave petitions be placed before Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna for tagging with the present case.

During the hearing, senior advocate H S Phoolka, representing petitioner Kahlon,

#### submitted judgments showing that prosecution was "hand in glove" with the accused in the

case. "These are not normal cases. There was cover up and the state did not prosecute properly. These cases are crimes against humanity," he said.

The court had earlier quizzed Delhi Police for not filing appeals against acquittals in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots cases and said prosecution should be carried out "seriously and not just for the sake of it".

Delhi witnessed large-scale violence and killings of persons from the Sikh community following former PM Indira Gandhi's assassination by her bodyguards in 1984 and the cases stemming from the incident have seen some major twists and turns 40 years on.

According to a report of the one-man Nanavati Commission, formed to probe the violence, 587 FIRs were registered in Delhi in relation to the 1984 riots in which 2,733 people were killed. Of the total, the police shut about 240 cases as "untraced" and about 250 cases resulted in acquittals.

### Shivraj Singh Chauhan to launch NAKSHA pilot program to digitise urban land records

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday will inaugurate the National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA) to create and update land records in urban areas in 152 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across 26 states and three Union Territories (UTs). The event will take place in Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, the ministry said in

a statement. The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, has initiated this pilot program.

The NAKSHA program aims to create and update land records in the urban areas to ensure accurate and reliable docu-

before it during the hearing of a suit filed by the West Bengal Government. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and Augustine George Masih

expressed displeasure while observing that no law officer was present in the court when the matter was called for hearing.

A lawyer told the bench that Solicitor General Tushar



Photo: File photo Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhar

mentation of land ownership. The Rural Development Ministry said this initiative will empower citizens, improve ease of living, enhance urban planning and reduce landrelated disputes. "The IT-based system for property record administration will foster trans-

parency, efficiency and support sustainable development," the ministry said. The Survey of India is the technical partner for NAKSHA programme which is responsible for conducting aerial surveys and providing accurate imagery, through third party vendors, to

state and Union Territory gov ernments. An end-to-end web-GIS platform will be developed by the Madhya Pradesh State Electronic Development Corporation (MPSEDC) and storage facilities will be provided by the National Informatics Centre Services Inc (NICSI)

The states and Union Territory governments will conduct field surveys and ground truthing using the orthorectified imagery, ultimately leading to the final publication of urban and semi-urban land records. The NAKSHA pilot program is expected to cost approximately Rs 194 crore, fully funded by

the Government of India. The occasion will be marked by flying of drones, launch of Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) booklet, video and flyer on NAKSHA Programme, the statement added

₹1,025.25 Crore or 83.69 per cent of its total income," the report said. While the BJP received the

highest amount, securing ₹1,685.63 Crore, the Congress received ₹828.36 Crore, and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ₹10.15 Crore.

Collectively, these three parties raised ₹2,524.1361 Crore -43.36 per cent of their total income - through the electoral bond scheme, which the Supreme Court struck down as "unconstitutional and manifor 55.99 per cent - ₹2,524.1361 Crore - of this amount. The report said the maximum

expenditure by the Congress was made towards electionrelated expenses, amounting to ₹619.67 Crore, followed by ₹340.702 Crore spent on administrative and general expenses.

In comparison, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) spent ₹56.29 Crore on administrative and general expenses and ₹47.57 Crore on employee costs.

Among the national parties, six declared receiving a total of ₹2,669.87 Crore from donations and contributions.

The report also noted that out of these six parties, only Congress (₹58.56 Crore) and CPI(M) (₹11.32 Crore) declared receiving a total income of ₹69.88 Crore from

the sale of coupons. The audit reports of CPI(M), Congress and BJP were submitted with delays ranging

from 12 to 66 days. The most common expenditure among national parties was on elections and administrative expenses, the report said.

### SC court flags centre for absence in key cases, citing lack of courtesy

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Show some courtesy to the Court, the Supreme Court said on Monday while flagging that law officers or lawyers on behalf of the Centre were not present



"Somebody should be here. Mehta, who was to appear in This is showing no courtesy to the court. There are so the court in the matter, was arguing another case before a bench headed by Chief Justice many law officers," Justice Sanjiv Khanna Gavai said.

"Show some courtesy to the court. It is a dispute between a state and the Union," the judge said and pointed out that there are also many senior lawyers on the Centre's panel.

The bench then passed over the matter on the request of the lawver.

Later in the day, when the solicitor general appeared in the court in some other matter, Justice Gavai told him, "Mr solicitor, in that West Bengal matter, nobody was present. It cuts a very sorry picture that the Union is not interested in important matters.

There are so many law offi-

cers, there are so many senior counsel on your panel and not a single lawyer was present.'

At the solicitor general's request, the bench adjourned the matter for two weeks. "Mr Tushar Mehta cannot be in every court. There are 17 courts," Justice Gavai said in

a lighter vein. The West Bengal government has filed an original suit in the apex court against the Centre under Article 131 of the Constitution, alleging that the CBI has been filing FIRs and proceeding with its investigation, despite the state having withdrawn the general consent to the federal

agency to probe cases within its territorial jurisdiction. Article 131 deals with the Supreme Court's original jurisdiction in a dispute between the Centre and one

or more states. In July last year, the top court had rejected the Centre's objection to the lawsuit's maintainability and listed the matter for framing of issues. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing in the matter for the West Bengal government, had argued that once the state had withdrawn its consent on November 16, 2018, the Centre could not allow the CBI to enter its territory

for investigation.



# Ram mandir becomes third highest-earning religious shrine in India

#### BISWAJEET BANERJEE AYODHYA

yodhya, the city of Lord Ram, is witnessing an unprecedented surge in the number of pilgrims and tourists, setting new records daily

The Ram Temple has now emerged as the third-highest revenue-generating religious shrine in India, surpassing famous temples like the Golden Temple, Vaishno Devi, and Shirdi Sai Baba Temple in annual earnings. Since the consecration of Ram Lalla on January 22, more than 130 Million devotees and tourists have visited Ayodhya. The temple's annual revenue has now crossed ₹700 Crore

Ayodhya's rapid transformation is playing a significant role in boosting not just the economy of Uttar Pradesh but also the nation's economy. Currently, the daily influx of devotees and tourists ranges between two to five lakh, creating challenges in providing seamless darshan and accommodation. The surge in visitors has propelled the Ram Temple into the list of India's top ten religious shrines in terms of donations, securing the third position.

offer donations in cash as well as gold and silver to the temple. According to Prof Vinod Srivastava, General Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh-Uttarakhand Economic Association, a study and estimation indicate that in the financial year 2024-25, the Tirupati Venkateswara Temple

A large number of devotees in Andhra Pradesh is expected to generate annual donations of approximately ₹1,500-1,650 Crore. The Sri Crore. Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Kerala holds the second position, with an estimated annual collection of ₹750-850 Crore. The surge in pilgrims arriving in Ayodhya has also led to

Chairman of the Temple Construction Committee of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust Nripendra Misra visits the Ram Temple, in Ayodhya

record-breaking donations. Following their holy dip at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, millions of devotees have been flocking to the Ram Temple. On an average day, around four lakh devotees offer prayers at the temple, a trend that has continued since Makar Sankranti. Prakash Gupta, the in-charge of

the temple trust office, stated that the trust's ten donation tees, Ayodhya is on its way to becoming one of India's most counters are collectively receiving contributions exceeding ₹10 Lakh per day. Estimates suggest significant religious and tourist that in just one month of the Maha Kumbh, over ₹5 Crore destinations, solidifying its status as a spiritual and economic powerhouse," Anil Mishra, Trustee of the Ram has been collected in donations, including offerings made in Janmabhoomi Nayas, said. the six donation boxes placed

Pradesh - ₹700 Crore 4. Golden Temple, Punjab ₹650 Crore 5. Vaishno Devi Temple, Jammu & Kashmir - ₹600 Crore 6. Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Maharashtra - ₹500 Crore 7. Jagannath Temple, Puri, Odisha - ₹400 Crore 8. Akshardham Temple, New Delhi - ₹200-250 Crore 9. Somnath Temple, Gujarat -₹150-200 Crore before Ram Lalla.

"With the rising influx of devo-

India's Top Revenue-

**Revenue in Crores**) 1. Tirupati Venkateswara Temple, Andhra Pradesh -

₹1,500-1,650 Crore 2. Padmanabhaswamy Temple

Kerala - ₹750-850 Crore

3. Ram Temple, Ayodhya, Uttar

**Generating Temples (Annual** 



SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami addresses media regarding his resignatior from the post, in Amritsar

### Harjinder Singh Dhami steps down as SGPC president

#### PTI CHANDIGARH

The president of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), Harjinder Singh Dhami, resigned from his post with immediate effect on Monday. Dhami's resignation came days after Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh strong-ly condemned the dismissal of services of Giani Harpreet Singh as the jathedar of Damdama Sahib by the SGPC.

Dhami said he is always com-mitted to the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs. Referring to a February 13 Facebook post of Jathedar Raghbir Singh on the termination of services of Giani Harpreet Singh, Dhami said he wrote that removing the latter was "highly con-demnable" and "unfortunate". "I being 'pardhan' (president of SGPC) take responsibility and resign from the post on moral grounds with immediate effect," he said while addressing the media in

Amritsar

Dhami also said he has writ-ten to the Akal Takht Jathedar to relieve him from his position in the seven-member committee formed to supervise the new membership drive of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD).

On February 13, Giani Raghbir Singh in a Facebook post condemned the dismissal of services of Harpreet Singh as the jathedar of Takht Šri Damdama Sahib in Bathinda. In the post, he said Giani Harpreet Singh's removal was "highly condemnable" and "unfortunate" which will harm the independent exis-tence of the 'Takht Sahibs'. On December 10, the SCRC On December 10, the SGPC had dismissed the services of Giani Harpreet Singh as the jathedar of Takht Sri Damdama Sahib in Bathinda. The decision was taken dur-ing an executive committee meeting of the SGPC.

The committee accepted a report by a three-member committee formed to probe the allegations against Giani Harpreet Singh in an 18-yearold domestic dispute matter.

#### Four dead as SUV heading to Adhikari, four others suspended from Bengal Assembly Maha Kumbh overturns in MP

#### SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

 $F_{\text{scenes inside the State}}^{\text{ollowing alleged unruly}}$ Assembly Speaker Biman Bandopadhyay on Monday sus-pended Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari and three other MLAs for the rest of the Budget Session or for 30 days "whichever is earlier," leading the entire battery of the saffron legislators to stage a walkout on the issue

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership said that if the Speaker would not withdraw his suspension then the party would boy-cott Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's speech in the House. Banerjee is scheduled to deliver her speech on Tuesday.

"If there is no Opposition Leader in the House then, the BJP will boycott the Chief Minister," Adhikari said adding in that case he would deliver his speech

at the gate of the Assembly. The other legislators who were suspended are Agnimitra Paul, Bankim Ghosh and Biswanath Karik. The Opposition Leader subsequently said that Karik was suspended though he was not

present in the scene. The Monday's fracas started after an adjournment motion brought by BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul to highlight the incidents of disruption of Sarswati Puja at many places in the State earlier this month.

After Paul read out her speech the BJP demanded discussion on the matter alleging at many places the organisers had received threats for organising Saraswati Puja and in some places either they even had to perform the Pujas with police protection after obtaining order from the Calcutta High Court. When the Speaker disallowed the discussion the BJP MLAs

descended in the well shouting slogans and they even tore off the minutes, inside sources said. The Speaker subsequently sus-

pended the four MLAs. This is the fourth time when Adhikari

has been suspended. Referring to the disruption of Sarswati Puja -which organised throughout the State every year on Basant Panchami day -Adhikari referred to how the students of the Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri Law College in South Kolkata had to perform the Puja with police protection which

was obtained through an order of the Calcutta High Court. A former Trinamool Congress

Chatra Parishad leader Shabir Ali had allegedly threatened the students of JCCLC with dire consequences if they performed the Puja inside the college leading the students to move the High Court seeking police protection. A sim-ilar situation allegedly occurred

inside a school in South 24 Parganas where the headmaster of the school had to abandon the Puja after receiving threats from the local toughies. The BJP had been raising the

issue for the past several days. A section of the TMC leadership however said that the faceoff in the ICCLC had no communal angle as it was an affair between the two groups of the party's students' arm. "Shabir backed by

a local MP wanted to control the affairs of the Puja himself while the rival group backed by another TMC leader wanted to retain its sway this led to the faceoff," said a professor, adding "it is only about controlling the

huge money that is raised from the Puja and has nothing to do with any communal angle.

Meanwhile, the BJP is planning to take out processions against the Speaker's order, sources said.



PTI SIDHI (MP)

 $F_{\mathrm{and}\ \mathrm{as}\ \mathrm{many}\ \mathrm{others}}^{\mathrm{our}\ \mathrm{persons}\ \mathrm{were}\ \mathrm{killed},}$ sustained injuries after an SUV heading for the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj overturned in Madhya

persons.

hospital, the official said. Prima facie, it appears that the driver lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a turn, he said.

#### Meitei body appeals for restoring democratic rule in Manipur MP CM

#### PTI 📕 IMPHAL

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (CCOMI), an umbrella body of several Coordinating



urges urban ernment within this month to ensure democratic gover-nance and effective decisionbodies to making," Athouba said. A full-fledged assembly sesboost revenue sion needs to be convened to berate on tl formulate necessary legal and PTI INDORE administrative measures for resolution, he said. "The COCOMI also sought Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav immediate measures to pro-vide security for all affected on Monday stressed that urban bodies must become financialvillages and amnesty for their civilian village defence forces, ly self-reliant and said that if for opening of national hightheir revenue increases, the ways and ensuring smooth government's public welfare transportation of essential commodities" Athouba programmes can be implemented better. Addressing a meeting of the state unit of the All India Council of Mayors here added. A comprehensive initiative must be undertaken to identify, dismantle, and evict all illegal villages that have sprung up across the state, threatening its demographic and environmental integrity, Athouba said. "All violent activities and unauthorised movement of armed groups must be brought to a complete halt to File Photo ensure peace and stability," He said.

# said.

Pradesh's Sidhi district in the wee hours of Monday, police

The accident occurred under the Amahia police station limits around 2 am when the SUV was going towards Prayagraj from Waidhan in Singrauli district, Superintendent of Police (SP) Ravindra Verma said. He said the vehicle carrying pilgrims was crossing Mudha Pahad when it overturned, killing four

Four other passengers were seriously injured and are undergoing treatment at a





### Gurugram RERA imposes ₹50 Lakh fine on Birla Estates

#### STAFF REPORTER GURUGRAM

The Real Estate Regulatory (RERA) Authority, Gurugram, has imposed a heavy penalty of ₹50 Lakh on real estate promoter M/s Birla Estates Private Limited for violation of Section 3 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016.

Section 3 of the Act states that no promoter shall advertise without registering the project. The promoter had applied for

the registration of its upcoming real estate group housing colony namely Birla Akira located at Sector 31 and 32-A, Gurguram under Section 4 of the RERA Act 2016.

The advertisement was published by the promoter while documents of the project were still under scrutiny at the Authority and registration certificate was awaited.

The Authority order said, "The registration certificate (RC) shall be issued after submission of remaining deficiencies, online DPI and deposit of ₹50 Lakh penalty for violation of Section 3 of the Act, 2016.

The Authority repeatedly warned the promoter of legal consequences and had issued a show cause notice to the promoter for violation of the

"The promoter M/s Birla

organisations of the Meiteis, on Monday urged Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla to help establish a "duly elect-ed government within this month" in the state which is under President's Rule.

In a memorandum to the governor, the COCOMI sought his immediate intervention to address the ongoing crisis that has severely impacted the political, social and economic stability of the state. President's rule was imposed

in Manipur and the assembly put under suspended animation on the evening of February 13, days after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned from his post. Biren Singh, who was heading the BJP-led government in

Manipur since 2017, resigned as chief minister after nearly 21 months of ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives so far since May 2023. The people of Manipur are in

Properties LLP, Signature Global Homes Private dire need of clarity and assur-Limited, Shine Buildcon Pvt Ltd and AMB Infraventures ance from the highest consti-

Pvt Ltd for non-compliance of timeline provided under Section 4(2)(l)(C) of the Act 2016 of ₹25 Lakh each. It is worth noting Section 4(2)(l)(C) of the Act clearly states that the promoter shall abide by its declarations. For non-compliance of RERA

Estates Pvt Ltd is again advised not to indulge in or

allow any other entity for sale

of units in unregistered pro-jects failing which legal con-

sequences shall follow," said

The Authority also penalised

Godrej Developers and

the Authority order.

registration conditions, the Authority also ordered the forfeiture of security deposits of six promoters such as M/s 1000 Trees Housing Pvt Ltd, M/s Keystone World Pvt Ltd, M/s JMK Holdings Pvt Ltd, M/s TARC Ltd, M/s Mapsko Builders Pvt Ltd and M/s Aviana Green Estates Pvt Ltd totalling and amount of ₹2.25

Crore. RERA Authority Gurugram is committed to protecting the interests of homebuyers and ensuring the timely completion of real estate projects. The authority will continue to take strict action against developers who fail to meet their obligations under the RERA Act.



Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity



The members of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity

tutional authority of the state regarding the current political and constitutional status," COCOMI Convenor K Athouba after meeting Bhalla, told reporters in front of the

Rai Bhavan. He said that during the meeting, they requested the governor to convey an official message to the citizens, outlining the government's immediate

plan to restore normalcy and uphold law and order. We submitted a memoran-

dum to the governor in which COCOMI urged him to establish a duly elected govThe organisation also demanded that the administration implement NRC in the state and dismantle camps of militant groups

through video conference, Yadav said urban bodies play an important role in strengthening democracy, and the state government will take every possible step for development based on suggestions of the mayors. 'We will be happy when urban bodies stand on their feet (financially) and run on their systems," he said, adding that urban bodies will have to find new sources of income to

increase their revenue. The chief minister said if urban bodies become financially self-

reliant through revenue increase, the government's pub-lic welfare schemes can be implemented better. He also praised the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) for raising ₹244 Crore to construct a solar power plant by introducing green bonds as a public issue, urging other urban bodies to

adopt this step as a model. Yadav said the number of seats is likely to increase in the upcoming delimitation of the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies, and the process will also affect the urban bodies.

State Urban Administration and Housing Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya said mayors will have to take "bold steps" to make urban bodies financially

self-reliant. He asked mayors to present the details of income and expenditure of their urban bodies in a transparent manner to the citizens.

He said full recovery of dues should be done by imposing appropriate taxes on the public.

### Lost dog finds way back home to Agra family after 104 days

#### BISWAJEET BANERJEE AGRA

What was supposed to be a memorable trip to the Taj Mahal turned into a heartbreaking ordeal for Dipayan and Kasturi Ghosh of Gurugram. Their beloved pet dog, a Himachali Desi Grey Hound, went missing from their hotel, plunging the couple into days of despair and relentless searching. After 104 days of unwavering hope and effort, their beloved pet was

finally found. Dipayan, an Air India officer, and his wife Kasturi, originally from Vasant Kunj, Delhi, arrived in Agra on November 1, 2024. They checked into Hotel Taj View on Fatehabad Road with their two beloved pet dogs. On November 3, they left for Fatehpur Sikri,



entrusting their pets to the hotel staff. However, tragedy struck when their native breed Grey Hound went missing at around 11:30 AM. The devastated couple accused the hotel management of neg-

ligence and immediately launched a search operation. Posters were pasted across the Tajganj area, CCTV footage reward of ₹50,000 for any clues, the dog remained missing for over three months.

With heavy hearts, the couple eventually returned home, but their search never ceased. They visited Agra every week, praying for their pet's safe return. Then, a breakthrough came after 104 days-a local guide spotted a dog resembling theirs roaming in Mehtab Bagh. He shared a video, and to their amazement, their beloved Grey Hound was visible.

On Saturday, the couple rushed to Mehtab Bagh. Volunteers and hotel staff joined in the search, but the dog remained hidden in the thick bushes. Undeterred, they waited patiently at a nearby tea stall. was reviewed, and a case was registered at Tajganj Police Station. Despite offering a

emotion, Kasturi called out to it. The dog hesitated at first but, recognizing his owners, ran towards them.

Tears streamed down their faces as they saw the dog's frail condition-it had grown thin, its bones visible from days of starvation. But the reunion was nothing short of a miracle. The couple immediately took the Grey Hound to a vet for a check-up and vowed to nurse it back to health.

More than just a pet

For Dipayan and Kasturi, their Grey Hound is not just a dogit is family. Kasturi had rescued it a decade ago when it was sick and abandoned. Since then, it had been their loyal companion, sleeping beside them and sharing their joys and sor-rows. Losing it felt like losing a part of themselves.

RAIPUR | TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 18, 2025

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#### PAPER WITH PASSION-

# **Heart-wrenching**

The New Delhi Railway Station stampede exposes administrative lapses and highlights the need for better crowd control

t is as heart-wrenching as it is unfortunate. The stampede at New Delhi Railway Station has shocked the Capital. At least 18 people, including five children, lost their lives, and over a dozen sustained injuries in a horrific stampede at the Station on Saturday night. The tragedy unfolded on the foot-overbridges connecting platforms 14 and 15, as a sudden surge of passengers waiting to board trains for Prayagraj resulted in a deadly crush. The incident raises critical questions about mismanagement, infrastructural inadequacies and lapses in crowd control that led to the catastrophe. The primary trigger of the incident appears to be a confluence of factors, including excessive passenger load, misleading announcements and poor crowd management. The surge of pilgrims traveling to Prayagraj for the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela significantly increased the footfall at the station. Reports indicate that around 1,500 general tickets were being sold every hour. Sources suggest that a wrong



announcement regarding a change of platforms may

have led to confusion among passengers. In the ensuing rush, some individuals slipped while descending the foot-overbridge stairs, triggering widespread panic. Besides, extended waiting periods for departing trains may have resulted in a bottleneck effect. While overcrowding was an expected challenge, poor planning and mismanagement turned it into a disaster. Given the predictable surge of passengers, railway authorities failed to deploy adequate personnel to regulate the movement of people. Despite previous incidents highlighting the risks of overcrowding, no significant upgrades had been made to ensure

smoother pedestrian movement. Moreover, the response from railway officials and security personnel was reportedly delayed. A more robust system to alert and manage surging crowds could have prevented the incident from escalating into a full-fledged disaster. Could this have been prevented? Surely. Deployment of additional railway police and personnel during peak travel periods could have averted the disaster. Besides, real-time monitoring of passenger density using surveillance cameras and Al-based crowd control systems could have definitely help in such a situations. This stampede must jolt the authorities from their deep slumber as this is not for the first time such a tragedy has happened. Expansion and widening of foot-overbridges to accommodate high passenger traffic must be done on priority. Clear and accurate digital signage to minimise confusion is also very important. Besides, there must be a system to cap the number of the general tickets issued per hour, especially during mega events, While accountability is being fixed, the focus must remain on implementing long-term solutions to prevent such tragedies in the future. The railway authorities must ensure that infrastructure, security and operational protocols are robust enough to handle high footfall scenarios safely.



# Delhi High Court reinstates fraud claims against Reliance



PRASHANT TEWARI

The Delhi High Court guashes an international arbitration award that had dismissed government claims of 'insidious fraud' and 'unjust enrichment' against Reliance Industries

he resounding victory of the Centra Government's legal team, led by the Attorney General of India A.R. Venkatramani reinforced by the active participation of the eminent jurist and the former Attorney General of India KK Venugopal, under the astute administrative guidance of Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, in the Delhi High Court verdict against Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), has decisively dismantled allegations of favouritism levelled against the Modi government.

This landmark ruling categorically refutes opposition claims that the government promotes select business houses, reaffirming its commitment to transparency, fairness, and the rule of law in corporate governance and policymaking. In a landmark judgment dated February 14, 2025, the Delhi High Court delivered a decisive verdict in the case of Union of India vs Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), addressing long-standing allegations of crony capitalism and favouritism towards major industrialists by the current government.

This 79-page judgment not only exonerates the government from accusations of bias but also underscores the integrity of India's judicial system and the competence of its political and legal leadership. Background of the Case The dispute centres around the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) executed between the Union of India and Reliance Industries Ltd. in 2000, about the exploration and extraction of natural gas in the Krishna-Godavari basin.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas alleged that RIL had engaged in "unjust enrichment" by extracting and selling gas that had purportedly migrated from fields operated by the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to RIL's adjacent block. The government sought compensation, contending that RIL's actions resulted in significant financial losses to the state excheier. Details of Judgement The Delhi High Court's single judge judgment in Union of India vs. Reliance Industries Ltd. examined the allegations of unjust enrich- RIL, as it reinstates the gov-

ment, contractual breaches, and fraud against RIL, ultimately dismissing them due to a lack of concrete evidence. The court upheld the findings of the international arbitration tribunal, reaffirming that RIL operated within the bounds of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and could not be held liable for natural gas migration beyond its control. However, the Division Bench of the Delhi High Court has quashed an arbitral award that had dismissed the Central government's claims against Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and its foreign partners. The government had accused the conglomerate of "insidious fraud" and "unjust enrichment" amounting to over \$1.729 billion by allegedly extracting natural gas from deposits beyond its entitle-

The Bench, comprising Justices Rekha Palli and Saurabh Banerjee, overturned the ruling of a single judge, who had, in May 2022, set aside the Petroleum Ministry's allegations. The court determined that the international arbitration award dated July 24, 2018, which had favoured the KIL-led consortium, was "contrary to public policy" in India. This decision marks a significant legal setback for

ment.



#### THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS ALLEGED THAT RIL HAD ENGAGED IN

ENRICHMENT' BY EXTRACTING AND SELLING GAS THAT HAD PURPORTEDLY **MIGRATED FROM** FIELDS OPERATED BY THE STATE-OWNED **OIL AND NATURAL** GAS CORPORATION (ONGC) TO RIL'S ADJACENT BLOCK commitment to the rule of law, ensuring that legal processes remain transparent

and evidence-driven. By challenging the political narrative of undue favouritism towards industrialists, the judgment reinforces the integrity of India's governance, corporate regulations, and media responsibility in shaping public discourse.

#### Conclusion

The Delhi High Court's latest judgment in Union of India vs Reliance Industries Ltd. is a testament to the robustness of India's legal system and its capacity to adjudicate highstakes disputes impartially. It dispels allegations of governmental bias towards prominent industrialists, affirming that decisions are grounded in evidence and legal merit. The ruling also underscores the importance of adhering to contractual obligations and the role of arbitration in resolving intricate commercial conflicts. As India continues to navigate its path towards economic growth, this judgment reinforces the principles of fairness, transparency, and the rule of law as cornerstones of

the matter may now proceed further in Indian courts, potentially leading to fresh legal battles over financial liabilities and resource allocation in the country's hydrocarbon sector. Beyond the legal nuances, the judgment serves as a crucial precedent for future contracts, emphasising the importance of precision in **'UNJUST** drafting and adherence to arbitration mechanisms for dispute resolution. It underscores the independence of the judiciary in adjudicating disputes involving powerful

> abysmally woeful performance of the RIL legal team in defending the case. Furthermore, the ruling reassures investors about India's

corporate entities and govern-

ment bodies, dispelling claims

The case also highlights the

competence of the central

government's legal represen-

tation, particularly the dili-

gence of Attorney General AR Venkatramani and Union

Petroleum & Natural Gas

Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

in defending the government's

stance. It further reflects the

of crony capitalism.

ernment's claims concerning

unauthorised gas extraction.

The ruling also strengthens

the government's position in

regulatory disputes within the oil and gas sector. With

the arbitral award nullified,

its democratic ethos. (The writer is a prominent columnist and Public Policy *Expert; the views expressed* are personal)

A flock of ibis flying over a paddy field, in Nagaon

### India advances carbon market reforms following COP 29



ATUL AGRAWAL

India, already a leader in renewable energy, reinforced its commitment to climate action by proposing a unified carbon market

→he 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) concluded in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 24, 2024. While key expectations regarding climate finance remained unmet, significant progress was achieved in carbon market regulations. A landmark agreement on carbon trading rules was reached, aiming to accelerate climate action by enabling countries to meet their emission reduction goals efficiently and cost-effectively. Under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the country initially aimed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity by 33-35 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030, later revising this target to 45 per cent in 2022. India has launched multiple initiatives to combat climate change. On the supply side, renewable energy generation helps mitigate carbon footprints, while demand-side initiatives like Perform-Achieve-Trade (PAT), star labeling, energy

conservation building codes,

and improved lighting solu-



tions further reinforce India's climate commitments. Existing frameworks, includ-Renewable Energy ing Certificates (RECs) and Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts), serve as a foundation. These were introduced under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008 and have been successfully traded on Indian power exchanges. RECs drive renewable energy adoption by allowing obligated entities to purchase either renewable energy or its certificates. One REC equates to 1 MWh of renewable energy generated from sources like solar, wind, hydro, and biogas. This system benefits both electricity generators and buyers, ensuring environmental compliance.

Similarly, ESCerts promote energy efficiency by enabling

industries to either enhance energy savings or buy corresponding certificates. Ône ESCert represents a reduction of 1 million tonnes of oil equivalent energy. Currently, 13 key industrial sectors, including aluminum, cement, power distribution, and railways, participate in

this program, covering nearly 50 per cent of India's primary energy consumption. Since their inception, RECs and ESCerts have driven significant emissions reductions, saving over 73 million tonnes of CO2 through REC trading and preventing 106 million tonnes of CO2 emissions via ESCerts. Recognising the need for a unified carbon market, India proposed a comprehensive system merging RECs and ESCerts into a single, internationally aligned framework. The regulatory foundation was set with the amendment of the Energy Conservation Act in January 2023, followed by the notification of the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023. The scheme designates the

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission as the market regulator and power designated energy-intensive exchanges as trading plat-

forms, while the Bureau of Energy Efficiency oversees compliance mechanisms. India's carbon market will consist of two segments: a compliance market and an offset market. The compliance market will impose emission caps on obligated entities, allowing overachievers to sell surplus carbon credits to underachievers. The offset market will enable voluntary participation by non-obligated entities aiming to reduce their carbon footprints.

Carbon credit certificates will be traded through a regulated bidding process. The transition from existing REC and ESCert markets to a unified carbon trading system is expected to be seamless, given India's well-established power exchanges and transaction mechanisms. With this development, India moves closer to integrating its climate action efforts into global carbon markets, reinforcing its commitment to reducing emissions and achieving longterm sustainability goals.

(The writer works with Indian Institute of Management, Sirmaur; views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### **US CRITICISES EUROPEAN LEADERS**

Madam — At the 61st Munich Security Conference, American Vice President JD Vance left no stone unturned in reprimanding and threatening the European leaders. He has launched a monstrous attack on Europe, in which he has accused its leaders of failing to give free speech, restricting illegal migration, and living in fear of religious ideology. He has put the biggest threat to Europe's security on the European countries themselves. Along with this, he also said that the European countries do not pay the full price for their security. America will no longer provide security to Europe with closed eyes. This simply means that Donald Trump has indicated that if the NATO organisation has to be run, then it will have to be run on Trump's terms, or else America will leave that organisation.

America has also indicated that it wants to see Russia back in the G-7 countries' organisation. The White House has already announced that it will impose additional tariffs on goods imported from countries around the world. Now the rest of the world, especially the European Union, will have to decide without any delay how they will learn to live without America. Before America leaves NATO, the campaign to expel it will have to be intensified. Also, every possible help will have to be given to Ukraine to save it from the clutches of Russian terrorism. Because Trump is completely determined to hand over the reins of Ukraine to the Kremlin.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

#### **HOPES HIGH FOR TROPHY**

Madam— This refers to your caption in Sunday Pioneer, "Rohit, Kohli lead Team India for Champions Trophy. Indeed, it was a brilliant century from skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli against Bangladesh in the ICC Champions Trophy opener while I occupied the studio box as a special

### **Stampede at New Delhi Railway Station**



he stampede incident at New Delhi Railway Station claimed 15 innocent lives, but it also serves as a warning that the time for change has arrived. Chaos, lack of crowd control and failure of security measures led to this tragedy. It is now essential that we learn from this incident and take steps to prevent such occurrences in the future. This disaster has made it clear that the railway must adopt modern strategies for crowd

match. The entire box was surrounded by the players' family, and I can see all the cheers in Anushka Sharma and Rohit's wife.

The recent rule of restrictions has not permitted the player's family to join them for this tour. When my opinion about Rohit and Virat has been changing while watching them play, there came a strong pat behind my back, which brought me to reality. Oh, it all happened in my dreams that I woke up to my wife's call and went for a quick shower and to get ready to start at my office. Hitman and Kohli thus became the dream object in fans lives, and I am also one among those impacted much by their failures. One hopes that both will come good in the upcoming Champions Trophy. A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

#### **MSMES MUST REINVENT TO SHINE**

Madam — The US's push for reciprocal tariffs, framed as a 'fair trade' corrective, has sent shockwaves through guest from which I was witnessing the global markets-but for India's MSMEs management and passenger safety. The railway administration should anticipate potential crowds during major events and pilgrimages and make appropriate arrangements in advance. By utilising new technologies, entry and exit points should be better organised to ensure smooth passenger movement. The government has expressed condolences over the incident, and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has ordered

high-level inquiry. However, beyond this, we must take proactive steps with a positive mindset to prioritise passenger safety. By improving traffic management, deploying adequate police forces and making the information system more effective, we can prevent such incidents. **R K Jain** | Barwani

industry, this moment could be less about survival and more about reinvention. Critics argue that this move will spark a trade war, hobbling economic growth and benefiting no one. However, for India's MSME sector, this moment could be a catalyst for transformation. By upgrading to world-class standards at affordable costs, Indian MSMEs can tap into vast export markets and become more competitive, resilient and exportready.

This would require a multi-pronged approach, involving government incentives, technology transfers, and skill development programmes. By doing so, India can turn a potential trade threat into a transformative opportunity, ultimately boosting its economic growth and global trade prospects and proving that even in the midst of tariff wars, MSMEs can shine as stars of innovation and growth.

Shruti Saggar | Pune

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### **FIRSTCOLUMN RAISING GEN ALPHA AND GEN BETA**

To ensure their well-being, parents must strike a balance between traditional values and modern approaches



#### SHAINY SHARMA

he 21st century has introduced new challenges and opportunities in parenting. As we raise Generation Alpha (born 2012-2024) and Generation Beta (born 2025-2039), it is crucial to adapt parenting strategies to their digital upbringing, rapid technological advancements and changing societal norms.

Ensuring these children grow up healthy, happy, and disciplined requires a balance of traditional values and modern approaches. There is no denying that, unlike previous generations, Generation Alpha and Generation Beta are growing up with easy access to technology, which affects their lifestyle habits.

It is of utmost importance that parents/guardians take proactive steps to ensure their children's well-being such as providing balanced nutrition such as a diet rich in proteins, vitamins, and fibres while limiting processed foods and sugary snacks; reducing screen time and promoting physical activities such as cycling, swimming, and team sports to improve fitness and social skills; setting screenfree bedtime routines to ensure quality sleep, which is crucial for the cognitive and emotional development and encouraging children to spend time offline by engaging in hands-on activities like painting, gardening and DIY projects.

Not only these, but in an era of social media influence and fastpaced lifestyles, parents/guardians need to support their children by creating a strong emotional connection; encouraging resilience and a growth mindset; guiding them in reducing digital overload, and engaging them in mindful activities such as yoga, meditation, journaling, or simple relaxation exercises to help them cope with stress.Above all, what matters the most is the art of discipline. With instant gratification becoming a norm in the digital age,



parents/guardians must realise that these generations will grow up in an Al-driven world, requiring skills beyond academics. Parents/Guardians can help prepare them by encouraging critical thinking and creativity and providing problem-solving challenges, STEM activities, and artistic outlets along with proper guidance on responsible internet usage, cybersecurity, and online ethics followed by developing social skills in a hybrid world. Raising healthy, happy, and disciplined Gen Alpha and Gen Beta children requires a thoughtful blend of love, guidance, and adaptability. Parents/Guardians must embrace new-age parenting by integrating digital awareness with traditional values while fostering emotional resilience and self-discipline. By prioritising wellbeing, education and strong moral foundations, one can ensure these generations grow into responsible, fulfilled, and future-ready individuals Also, by providing proper nutrition, encouraging physical and mental well-being, fostering social skills, and setting positive examples, parents/guardians can create an environment where children thrive for it is aptly said that a happy and healthy child is not just the result of luck but of consistent efforts, care, and understanding from those who nurture them. By promoting healthy habits, setting strong moral foundations, and nurturing adaptability, parents can equip their children for a fast-evolving world. Ultimately, a happy and well-rounded child is shaped not by chance, but by consistent love, guidance, and understanding

# Unlocking nature's secrets: A journey through India's forests

Nature is an open book, rich with stories waiting to be uncovered. There are intricate connections between land, life, and time, write BKP Sinha & Arvind Jha

ature, in its boundless com-plexity, holds countless wonders and mysteries. A walk through the forest offers a engage deeply with the natural world, observing its intricate details and uncovering its hidden stories. Every tree, rock, and animal track contributes to the landscape's rich history, revealing the dynam-ic processes that have shaped it over time. The towering trees, with their rings cataloguing centuries of climatic shifts and environmental changes, stand as silent witnesses to the passage of time. A notice-able absence of middle-aged trees, for example, often points to a past forest fire. These fires, while natural and sometimes devastating, selectively eliminate younger trees while leaving behind older, more resilient ones. India, with its diverse ecosystems ranging from coastal regions to mountain valleys, offers a unique opportunity to observe the intricate relationships between flora, fauna, and their environment. Even the soil beneath our feet, a mosaic of organic matter, testifies to the endless cycle of life and decay that sustains the ecosystem. The contours of the land, the steepness of slopes, the presence of valleys and ridges - these are not mere accidents of geography. They are the fingerprints of geological forces, millen-nia in the making. The Himalayas, Western Ghats, and Vindhya ranges are iconic examples of such geological artistry, showcasing the dynamic processes that have shaped the nation's landscape and influenced its biodiversity. The forest is a timeless classroom, where nature's lessons unfold with every step. But to truly unlock these secrets, requires more than a casual glance; it demands a mindful approach and willingness to slow down and truly engage with our surroundings. As you walk through the forest, you'll notice the forest floor is covered with a thick layer of leaves, twigs, and decomposing organic matter.

This layer, known as the leaf litter, plays a crucial role in nutrient cycling and provides a habitat for many small creatures. The type and distribution of vegetation provide insights into the region's climate, soil conditions, and water availability. Lush rainforests, like those in the Western Ghats and Northeast India, thrive in areas with abundant rainfall. These verdant ecosystems boast a rich variety of plant species, from towering trees to intricate understory plants, each adapted to thrive in the humid, water-rich environment. This dense vegetation supports a wide range of wildlife, contributing to the region's biodiversity and ecological stability. In contrast, the arid deserts of Rajasthan present a landscape where life has remarkably adapted to survive with minimal water. Vegetation here is sparse, but highly specialized, with species like cacti, acacias, and thorny bushes dominating the terrain. These species are equipped with unique adaptations, such as water-storing tissues and deep root systems, allowing them to conserve and access water efficiently and ensuring their survival in such harsh conditions. The intimate relationship between plants and their environment becomes even more evident when observing specific species in particular areas. For instance, in floodplains, trees such as sycamore, Gular, and ash Gurjan thrive in fertile, wet conditions where water and nutrients



accumulate. On the other hand, the hardy Casuarina is well-suited to coastal environments, where the salty conditions pose a challenge for many other species, including Karanj (Pongamia). Similarly, along riverbanks, trees like Jamun and Arjun flourish in the constantly wet conditions, highlighting how plant life reflects the local ecosystem. Just as plant life reflects environmental conditions, rock formations provide a window into the geological history and processes that have shaped the land. Sedimentary rocks, often rich in marine fossils such as shells, corals, and fish, indicate that the region was once submerged underwater.

THE These rocks may also display ripple GANGES RIVER, marks or mud cracks, further supmarks or mud cracks, further sup-porting the presence of ancient water bodies. For example, the fos-sil-rich Shivalik Hills provide a glimpse into prehistoric times, showcasing the variety of life forms that once thrived in the area. The types of sediment and their layer-ing can also offer insights into past REVERED AS SACRED, FLOWS OVER 2,500 KILOMETRES ing can also offer insights into past climate conditions, such as periods ACROSS of drought or heavy rainfall. For instance, fine-grained sediments suggest calm, shallow waters, while NORTHERN coarser sediments point to more INDIA,

Odisha, vibrant red and ochre hues reflect historical iron ore mining. In Rajasthan and Gujarat, white caps on the soil signal high salt levels from over-irrigation.Physical signs in the landscape-such as fissures or cracks in the soil—can indicate instability, caused by factors like erosion, seismic activity, or human intervention.

analys \$ 07

In hilly regions like the Western Ghats or Himalayas, slipping or bending tree bark may signal shifting ground, a clear indicator of potential soil movement. Recognizing these signs is crucial for the safety of campers and hikers. Water bodies, including rivers, lakes, and wetlands, are vital components of India's ecosystems and are deeply intertwined with the land's geology. Major rivers such as Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Godavari are true lifelines for the

nation. The Ganges River, revered as sacred, flows over 2,500 kilometres across northern India, supporting numerous aquatic and terrestrial species. Its waters irrigate fields that feed millions, and it is a critical source of drinking water for countless communities. Similarly, the Brahmaputra River, originating rom the Tibetan Himalayas, meanders through Northeast Índia, sustaining rich floodplain ecosystems and supplying water for agriculture and hydropower. The Godavari, often called the "Dakshin Ganga," flows through central India, nourishing one of the largest river basins in the country and supporting diverse habitats. India's wetlands, such as the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, span the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta and are a haven for Bengal tigers, crocodiles, birds, and other wildlife, while its mangroves protect the coastline from storms and floods. As we explore these natural habitats, subtle signs like paw prints, droppings, and other traces offer glimpses into animals' presence and activities.

with their stealthy grace, leave tracks showcasing the soft pads of their paws, devoid of sharp imprints of their retractable claws, hinting at their elusive nature.

Rabbits, in contrast, leave bounding tracks with hind legs landing ahead of their forelegs, showcasing their hurried movements and vulnerability. Understanding these signs provides deeper insights into wildlife behaviour and habitat preferences. Like us, animals are drawn to places that offer the essentials of life: food, water, and shelter. A patch of trees followed by an open field and a water source, such as a lake or pond, indicates a popular spot for wildlife. However, animals in these areas are often cautious and aware

of their surroundings. They possess an innate ability to detect and avoid human presence long before we notice them, typically only breaking cover to make a quick escape.Birds, in particular, use vocalizations to mark territory and alert others to predators.

For instance, the sudden flight of pigeons on a quiet woodland path can trigger a group warning system, notifying nearby animals—deer, rabbits, and foxes-of a potential threat. Similarly, a chorus of noisy bird calls may indicate a coordinal ed defence against a predator, such as a crow mobbing an owl. Birds also emit sharp alarm calls, like the high-pitched "seet," specifically designed to warn others of a bird of prey overhead. It is in paying close attention to these subtle cues that we begin to truly understand the richness of the natural world. The next time we find ourselves amidst the whispers of the woods, let us listen closely.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

turbulent conditions.

SUPPORTING Igneous rocks, formed from cooled magma, reveal the area's volcanic NUMEROUS history, while metamorphic rocks provide evidence of the intense AQUATIC AND transformations that occur deep TERRESTRIAL within the Earth. Understanding the geology beneath the surface, which shapes the land, is equally impor-SPECIES. ITS WATERS tant, and soil reveals much about this. For example, limestone regions, IRRIGATE where rock weathering creates caves and stone pillars, typically have alka-line soils high in calcium. FIELDS THAT FEED MILLIONS, Conversely, granite-dominated areas, where rock breakdown leads to acidic soils, often develop wet-

lands due to poor drainage. Soil colour offers further clues: Dark brown soil, rich in organic matter, supports diverse ecosystems; grey soil suggests wetter conditions; yellowish soil may indicate nutrient depletion. Dramatic shifts in soil colour often point to human influence. For example, in Karnataka and

Each animal leaves a distinct signature reflecting its unique anatomy and behaviour. For example, cats

The forest invites us to unlock its wisdom, learn from its resilience, and contribute to its legacy. By embracing the profound lessons found within the diverse elements of the forest, we not only enrich our own lives but also ensure that this invaluable library remains open for generations to come. (The writers are former principal

chief conservator of Forests, UP and Maharashtra; views *are their own*)

### The rise of religious realty: How India's infrastructure push is transforming spiritual tourism

This emerging sector is transforming pilgrimage sites with upscale hospitality and commercial developments, meeting the needs of faith-driven travelers

◄he Indian economy has witnessed a significant push towards infrastructure, real estate and tourism, especially spiritual tourism especially in the 2025-26 Union Budget. The government's focus on urban redevelopment, affordable housing, and tourism-friendly policies has positioned India as a global hotspot for real estate and hospitality investments. Among the most prominent emerging trends is the rise of religious realty-an intersection of real estate, hospitality, and spiritual tourism, where projects are developed to cater to the growing number of pilgrims and faith-driven travellers

With disposable incomes on the rise due to tax relief mea sures—such as no income tax



MAYANK JAISWAL

up to Rs 12 lakh under the new tax regime—India's middle what was once a fragmented class is set to invest more in market with limited infrahomeownership and travel. structure is now being trans-Additionally, the introduction segment within the hospitaliof the Rs 15,000 crore SWAMIH Fund 2 for affordable and mid-income housing will fast-track stalled projects, ensuring homebuyers see the fruition of their investments. Simultaneously, India's hospitality sector is poised for an both pilgrims and high-end

exponential rise, with 50 toptier tourist destinations being developed with state partnerships, reinforcing the nation's status as a must-visit destination for both spiritual and leisure travellers. The Rise of Religious Realty: A New Era in Development

travellers. The Solitaire Group has been at the forefront of this evolution. Recognising the immense potential in religious reality, it has strategically invested in prime pilgrimage destinations such as Ayodhya, Varanasi, Prayagraj, and Haridwar India's spiritual destinations

Its flagship development in have long been major attrac-Ayodhya—a luxury Taj hotel tions for domestic and interin partnership with the Indian Hotels Company Limited national tourists. However, (IHCL)-exemplifies its commitment to redefining spiritual tourism. The 300-key Taj Ayodhya, spanning 7.2 acres, formed into a sophisticated will feature high-end villas, ty and real estate industries. luxury accommodations, well-The religious tourism boom ness facilities, and state-of-thehas led to a surge in demand art banqueting spaces to cater for premium hotels, commerto both pilgrims and travellers seeking opulent experiences. Unlocking the Potential of cial complexes, and mixed-use developments that cater to Tier II and III Cities



The narrative of real estate growth in India is no longer limited to metro cities. Government-backed infrastructure projects, improved regional connectivity under the modified UDAN scheme, and growing investor interest are propelling the development of Tier II and III cities. Cities with religious and cul-

tural significance are seeing an influx of premium residential and commercial projects, as Master List (HML), ensuring

demand for quality real estate soars. The Solitaire Group has been a pioneer in this domain. Its developments in Prayagraj, including the city's first and largest township, are a testament to its vision of creating world-class urban spaces beyond metro hubs.

Through strategic land acquisitions and partnerships, the Group aims to bridge the infrastructure gap in smaller cities and deliver projects that enhance both living standards and economic prosperity. Hospitality Meets Spiritual

Tourism India's push for religious and spiritual tourism has been acked by key government initiatives, including hotels in pilgrimage hubs being added to the Infrastructure Harmonised

easier access to low-cost financing, streamlined e-visa services and visa fee waivers for select international tourists to encourage global arrivals, and MUDRA loans for homestays to support budget travel and rural tourism.

This structured approach to hospitality growth has enabled developers like the Solitaire Group to envision and execute projects that cater to a diverse range of travellers. The focus remains on integrating worldclass amenities into heritagerich locations while maintaining the cultural and spiritual essence of these sites.

Building a Legacy of Excellence

Since its inception in 2005, the Solitaire Group has established itself as a leading player in real estate and hospitali-

ty. From residential developments in emerging urban cen-tres to luxury hotels in religious destinations, its portfolio reflects its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and excellence.

With the Indian government's ambitious push for infrastructure, tourism, and real estate reforms, the opportunities in religious realty are boundless. Indian leading players would continue this transformative journey, crafting spaces that offer both spiritual fulfilment and contemporary luxury. The focus be on delivering exceptional living experiences and fostering economic growth in the communities that are being served.

(The author is the founder and CEO of Solitaire Group. Views expressed are personal)



### world 08

# **Top Russian officials will hold talks** with US in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday

### Zelenskyy says Ukraine won't take part in talks this week as they would 'yield no results'

#### PTI MOSCOW

**¬**op Russian officials will hold talks with US coun-L terparts on restoring ties, negotiating a peaceful settlement to the war in Ukraine and preparing a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump, the Kremlin said Monday. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry

Peskov said that Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov will fly to the Saudi capital later in the day to take part in the talks set for Tuesday. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will lead the US

CHANGE OF NAME

and same person.

Nellore,

delegation. Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff told Fox News Sunday that he and national security adviser Mike Waltz also will take part in the talks. Peskov said the talks will be pri-

marily focused on "restoring the entire complex of US-Russian relations, as well as preparing possible talks on the Ukrainian settlement and organizing a meeting of the two presidents'

Speaking to journalists on a conference call from the United Arab Emirates on Monday, President Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country won't take part in the talks this week, adding that they would "yield no results,"

E PIONEER A

given the absence of any Ukrainian officials. European governments have also demanded a role.

The talks follow last week's telephone call between Trump and Putin in which Trump said they "agreed to have our respective teams start negotia-tions immediately." The call upended years of US policy, ending the isolation of Moscow over its Feb. 24, 2022, invasion of Ukraine. After the call with Putin, Trump phoned Zelenskyy to inform him about their conversation. Trump on Sunday told

reporters that Zelenskyy "will be involved," but did not elaborate. Zelenskyy said he would

travel to Turkey on Monday and to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, but that his trip to the Arab nation was unrelated to planned US-Russia talks there on Tuesday.

Andriy Yermak, a top Zelenskyy adviser, said earlier Sunday there was no possibility of Ukrainian and Russian representatives meeting directly in the immediate future. In a Telegram post, Yermak said the Ukrainians weren't planning to do so "until we develop a plan" to end the war and bring about a "just peace."

Speaking on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures" program, Witkoff said he and Waltz will be "having

US 'gravely backpedaled'

meetings at the direction of the president," and hope to make "some really good progress with regard to Russia-Ukraine." In his TV interview, Witkoff didn't directly respond to a question about whether Ukraine would have to give up a "significant portion" of its ter-

ritory as part of any negotiated settlement. Those are details, and I'm not dismissive of the details, they're important. But I think the beginning here is trust-building. It's getting everybody to understand that this war does not belong continuing, that it should end. That's what the president has directed us to do, he said.

# Israel says drone strike kills Hamas chief in Lebanon

#### PTI JERUSALEM

 $A^n \ {\rm Israeli} \ drone \ {\rm strike} \ {\rm in} \\ {\rm Monday} \ {\rm killed} \ {\rm the} \ {\rm head} \ {\rm of} \ {\rm the} \\$ militant Hamas group in the country, Israel's military said. The strike came on the eve of the deadline for Israel's full withdrawal from southern Lebanon under the ceasefire agreement that ended the 14month war between Israel and Hezbollah.

The Israeli military said it killed Mohammad Shaheen, the head of Hamas' operations department in Lebanon. The army accused Shaheen of "recently planning terror attacks, directed and funded by Iran, from Lebanese territory against the citizens of the state of Israel."

Footage circulating online showed a car engulfed in flames. The strike occurred near a Lebanese army checkpoint and Sidon's municipal sports stadium.

The original withdrawal deadline was in late January, but under pressure from Israel, Lebanon agreed to extend it to February 18. It remains unclear whether Israeli troops will complete their withdrawal by Tuesday.

Since the ceasefire, Israel has continued airstrikes in southern and eastern Lebanon, saving it is targeting military sites containing missiles and combat equipment. Israel and Lebanon have exchanged accusations of violating the ceasefire agreement.

Meanwhile, Israel issued a tender for the construction of nearly 1,000 additional settler homes in the occupied West Bank, an anti-settlement watchdog said Monday.

Peace Now says the development of 974 new housing units would allow the population of the Efrat settlement to expand by 40% and further block the development of the nearby Palestinian city of Bethlehem.



Palestinian children walk amid the rubble of homes, destroyed by the Israeli army's air and ground offensive against Hamas in in Bureij refugee camp, central Gaza Strip on Monday

Hagit Ofran, who leads the group's settlement monitoring, said construction can begin after the contracting process and issuing of permits, which could take another year at least.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for their future state and view the settlements as a major obstacle to peace, a position with wide

international support. President Donald Trump lent unprecedented support to the settlements during his previous term. Israel has also steadily expanded settlements during Democratic administrations, which were more critical but rarely took any action to curb them.

Israel has built well over 100 settlements across the West Bank, ranging from hilltop outposts to fully-developed communities that resemble small towns and suburbs, with apartment blocks, malls and parks.

Over 500,000 settlers live in the occupied West Bank, which is in a statement.

home to some 3 million Palestinians. The settlers have Israeli citizenship, while Palestinians live under military rule with the Western-backed Palestinian Authority administering population centers.

Major human rights groups have described the situation as apartheid, allegations rejected by the Israeli government, which views the West Bank as the historical and biblical heartland of the Jewish people and is opposed to Palestinian statehood.

Peace Now, which favors a negotiated two-state solution to the conflict, accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government of pressing ahead with settlement construction while dozens of hostages captured in Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack languish in captivity in

the Gaza Strip. While the people of Israel (set) their sights on the release of the hostages and an end to the war, the Netanyahu government is operating on steroids' to establish facts on the ground that will destroy the chance for peace and compromise," it said

Sanampudi Dhanalaxmi. PD(1522)C Í, Mutum Bhabini Devi, W/o 9425118N, L/Hav Mutum Dhanabir Singh, 1/11 Gorkha Riffle (Bravest of the Brave) change my name

per Aadhar card). PD(1523)C Indu Devi W/o-No.14681733K Nk Shravan Pal, R/o- Vill & Post- Souri, Saidpur, Teh-Dist-Ghazipur, U.P.- 275205, have changed my name from Indu Devi to Indoo Pal, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

I, Rajput Omkavar, M/O-No.15705449L L/NK Rajput I. Mohammad Afrid Ali S/o Dashrath Singh, R/o-Parsottamnagr, PO- Odhav, Mohammad Sultan R/o Gujarat-Ahmedabad, 14/448, I Block, Military Road 282375, have changed my Bapa Nagar Karol Bagh New name from Rajput Omkavar Delhi-110005 hereby declare Rajput Omkavar that Mohammad Afrid Ali Sumersingh, vide affidavit and Afrid Ali both are one dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1529)C PD(1521)C I, Bichaiah, Father of-I, Dhanalaxmi W/o Sanampudi No.15453767N Sep/Amb Asst Ramesh Babu R/o 00, Sankaranagaram, Revuru, Jetturi Anjilaiah, R/o- Vill & PO- Bandayelkcherla, Teh & P.O -Revuru, Sub District-Kulkacherla, Dist-Ananthasagaram, District-PS-A.P-524303, Vikarabad. Telangana Presently Residing At Qtr-501502, have changed my 129, Type-2, Sector-9, R K name from Bichaiah to Jetturi Puram, New Delhi-110022 Bichaiah, vide affidavit dated have changed my name to 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1530)C I, Nazeer P K, Father of No.14867692K Sep/MT Sajeer P K, R/o- Panikkarkandy (H), Kayanna Bazar (PO). Koyilandy (Teh), Kozhikode (Dist), Kerala- 673525, have Mutum Bhabini Devi to changed my name from Kongkham Bhabini Devi (as Nazeer P K to Nazeer, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025

before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1531)C I. No.15786949A HAV(DMT) Hage Vilas Pandurang, R/o- At hundreds of federal employees PO- Danapur, Teh- Telhara, Dist- Akola, Maharashtra-444108, have changed my daughter's name from Akshita to Akshita Vilas Hage, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1532)C I, Amruathamma, Mother of-No.15453767N Sep/Amb Asst Jetturi Anjilaiah, R/o- Vill & PO- Bandayelkcherla, Teh & PS-Kulkacherla, Dist-Telangana-Vikarabad, 501502, have changed my name from Amruathamma to Jetturi Amruathamma, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1533)C I, Gulab Kanwar, W/o-No.15705449L L/NK Rajput Dashrath Singh, R/o-Parsottamnagr, PO- Odhav, Gujarat-Ahmedabad, 282375, have changed my name from Gulab Kanwar to Gulabkanwar Rajput Dashratsinh, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1534)C I, hitherto known as C.V. Srikanth S/o Shri Vasudevan Chedarampet Shyambunathan, residing at E-107, Narwana Appartments, I.P. Extension Delhi - 110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Chedarampet Vasudevan Srikanth. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

#### on Taiwan, says China PTI BEIJING relations and the peace and sta-

China's Foreign Ministry took Cissue Monday with a revised US government fact sheet that removed a line on American opposition to independence for Faiwan.

The United States has "gravely backpedaled" on its position on Taiwan and sent the wrong message to "separatist forces" on the island, ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 during the civil war that brought the communists to power in China. The defeated Nationalists fled to Taiwan and set up a rival government there. Taiwan has its own government and military but has never declared formal independence from China.

We urge the US to ... stop emboldening and supporting Taiwan independence and avoid further damaging China-US

PTI WASHINGTON

on the nation's nu

put communities at risk.

laid off late on Thursday, with

some losing access to email before they'd learned they were

fired, only to try to enter their

offices on Friday morning to find they were locked out. The

officials spoke on the condition

of anonymity for fear of retali-

ation. One of the hardest hit

offices was the Pantex Plant near

Amarillo, Texas, which saw

about 30 per cent of the cuts.

Those employees work on

reassembling warheads, one of

the most sensitive jobs across the

nuclear weapons enterprise,

with the highest levels of clear-

The hundreds let go at NNSA

were part of a DOGE purge

across the Department of

Energy that targeted about 2,000

'The DOGE people are coming

in with absolutely no knowledge

of what these departments are responsible for," said Daryl

Kimball, executive director of

the Arms Control Association,

referencing Elon Musk's Department of Government

Efficiency team. "They don't

seem to realise that it's actually

the department of nuclear

By late Friday night, the agency's

acting director, Teresa Robbins,

issued a memo rescinding the

firings for all but 28 of those

hundreds of fired staff members.

This letter serves as formal

notification that the termination

decision issued to you on

February 13, 2025, has been

rescinded, effective immediate-

," said the memo, which was

obtained by AP. The accounts

Department of Energy."

ance.

employees.

east coast. The US State Department removed the phrase "we do not support Taiwan independence" from the fact sheet last week. The document on America's relations with the self-governing island is posted on its website. Taiwan's government welcomed the move, though a statement

sent to The Associated Press on Monday did not mention the language specifically. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has noted that the US State

Department updated the Current State of US-Taiwan Relations' page ... with text that is positive and friendly toward us, reflecting the close and ami-

Taiwan and the United States," bility of the Taiwan Strait," Guo it said. It's not the first time the said when asked about the revi-State Department has removed sion at a daily media briefing. the phrase. It did so in May 2022 The Taiwan Strait is a narrow waterway that separates the but restored it a few weeks later island of Taiwan from China's after a strong protest from China. The government in Taiwan is worried that Trump might not be as steadfast a supporter of the

cable partnership between

island as his predecessor, former President Joe Biden. The US does not recognise Taiwan as a country but is its strongest backer and biggest arms supplier.

Trump said last week that Taiwan, a leading maker of semiconductors, had taken the chip business away from the US and that he wants it to come back. China, which says that

Taiwan must come under its control, has stepped up military exercises around the island of 23 million people in recent years.

# **Trump admn tries to bring back fired N-weapons workers in DOGE reversal**

go, calling them "probationary employees" who "held primar-The Trump administration has halted the firings of ilv administrative and clerical roles". But that wasn't the case. The firings prompted one who were tasked with working warning and call to act

responsible for these functions material there doesn't further may be seen as reckless at best and adversarily opportunistic at worst."

While some of the Energy NNSA senior staffer to post a Department employees who lt with energy effi-

contaminate nearby communi ties.

That incudes the Savannah River National Laboratory in Jackson, South Carolina; the Hanford Nuclear Site in Washingto

Dissanayake govt unveils first budget, projects 5 pc growth for Sri Lanka

#### PD(1524)C

I, Punam Singh W/o-No.160125531 Hav Amod Singh, R/o- Pure Nokhey Ray, PO- Behta Kalan, Dist-Raebareli, U.P- 229201, have changed my name from Punam Singh to Poonam Singh, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1525)C

I, Raj Kumari, W/o-No.16013275P Hav Hariom Singh, R/o- Vill- Nagla Shyam, Post- Akola, Teh & Dist- Agra, U.P.- 283102, have changed my name from Raj Kumari to Rajkumari, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

#### PD(1526)C

I, Kiran W/o- No.6949197M Nk Gaud Sunil Kumar Shyam Kumar, R/o- Gokul Nagar, Lilanagar Road, Kodiyarnagar, Ahmedabad City, Gujarat- 382350, have changed my name from Kiran to Gond Kiranben, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1527)C

I, Rajput Sumersingh, F/o-No.15705449L L/NK Rajput Dashrath Singh, R/o-Parsottamnagr, PO- Odhav, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-282375, have changed my from Rajput name Sumersingh to Rajput Sumersingh Sugansingh, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

#### C.V. Srikanth PD(1535)C

I, Rajeev Kumar S/O Inder Goyal R/O H.No 418-19, G-30, Sector 3, Rohini, Raja Pur Kalan, Rohini Sector-7, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Rajeev Goyal And in my 10th marksheet my Father from the three officials contra-Name has been written Inder dict an official statement from the Department of Energy, which said fewer than 50 Goel But actual Name is Inder Goyal .

National Nuclear Security PD(1536)C | Administration staffers were let |

programmes, in an about-face "This is a pivotal moment. We that has left workers confused must decide whether we are truly committed to leading on and experts cautioning that DOGE's blind cost cutting will the world stage or if we are content with undermining the very Three US officials who spoke to systems that secure our nation's AP said up to 350 employees at future," deputy division director Rob Plonski posted to LinkedIn. the National Nuclear Security "Cutting the federal workforce Administration were abruptly

ciency and the effects of climate change, issues not seen as priorities by the Trump administration, many others dealt with nuclear issues, even if they didn't directly work on weapons programmes. This included managing massive radioactive waste sites and ensuring the

state, where workers secure 177 high-level waste tanks from the site's previous work producing plutonium for the atomic bomb; and the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee, a Superfund contamination site where much of the early work on the Manhattan Project was done, among others.



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Britain's Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, attend the indoor rowing competition at the 2025 Invictus Games, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

### **Downloads of DeepSeek's AI apps paused** in South Korea over privacy concerns

#### weapons more than it is the PTI SEOUL

DeepSeek, a Chinese artificial intelligence start-up, has temporarily paused downloads of its chatbot apps in South Korea while it works with local authorities to address privacy concerns, according to South Korean officials on Monday. South Korea's Personal Information Protection Commission said DeepSeek's apps were removed from the local versions of Apples App Store and Google Play on Saturday evening and that the company agreed to work with the agency to strengthen privacy protections before relaunching the apps. The action does not affect users who have already downloaded DeekSeek on their phones or use it on personal computers. Nam Seok, director of the South Korean commission's investigation division, advised South Korean users of DeepSeek to delete the app from their devices or avoid entering personal information into the tool until the issues are resolved.

Many South Korean government agencies and companies have either blocked DeepSeek from their networks or prohibited employees from using the app for work, amid worries that the AI model was gath ering too much sensitive information. The South Korean privacy commission, which began reviewing DeepSeek's services last month, found that the company lacked transparency about third-party data transfers and potentially collected excessive personal information, Nam said. Nam said the commission did not have an estimate on the number of DeepSeek users in South Korea. A recent analysis by Ŵiseapp Retail found that DeepSeek was used by about 1.2 million smartphone users in South Korea during the fourth week of January, emerging as the second-most-popular AI model behind ChatGPT.

#### PTI COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan economy is expected to grow at 5 per cent in 2025, President Anura Dissanayake said Monday while presenting the budget for this year.

This is the first full-year budget presented by the National People's Power (NPP) government, which came to power in November last year. Introducing the budget, Dissanayake said a budget is a "reflection of the government's approach to building the economy and overall pol-

He added that this year's budget intends to set a foundation of an economy where "all citizens are active participants, active stakeholders, and active beneficiaries," news portal Adaderana.lk reported.

"We expect the 2025 economic growth to be around 5 per cent," said Dissanayake, also the island nation's Finance Minister.

He asserted that all fiscal measures would be directed towards the commencement of repaying the external debt from 2028.

...Growth in non-debt creating inflows along with robust economic growth and a primary budget surplus of 2.3 per cent of GDP will ensure Sri Lanka is well placed to meet the gradual increase in debt service payments from 2028 onwards," the report quoted the president as saying.

Last year, under then-president Ranil Wickremesinghe, Sri Lanka received capital grace periods on bilateral loan payments until 2028. Dissanayake also said a budget deficit of 6.7 per cent of the GDP or SLR 2.2 trillion was expected in 2025, down from the previous year's 6.8 per cent.

În line with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme targets, tax revenue is expected to be increased to 15 per cent of the GDP in



2025, he said.

Dissanayake said the government would prioritise digitising government services and would move towards a cashless economy.

Despite his pre-election statements to review the IMF programme of his predecessor Wickremesinghe, he has continued to steer the economy within the global lender's reforms.

Since the IMF and Sri Lanka entered a USD 2.9 billion bailout in March 2022, three tranches of over USD 330 million have been disbursed. The fourth tranche of the four-year facility is expected to be materialised soon after the IMF executive board's approval.

The president also announced a phased wage hike for state sector employees while presenting the budget.

'We propose to increase the minimum monthly basic salary from SLR 24,250 to 40,000 by 15,750. The current ad-hoc interim allowance and special allowance will be integrated into the basic salary giving a net increase of SLR 3,250 in the minimum salary, he said.

"Of the total net salary increase, SLR 5,000 and 30 per cent of the balance amount will be paid starting from April 2025, with the remaining 70 per cent being paid in equal portions beginning in January 2026 and January 2027," he said.

#### **DETAIL NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

#### No. PM-Shri/CW/Tender/24-25/86/2025/109

#### Date : 17.02.2025

The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam invites bids for the following building and repairing works from registered appropriate class of contractor under PWD (Building), Assam having experience of similar nature of work in Assam. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 17-02-2025 (11:00 hours) to 11-03-2025 (14:00 hours). The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in .

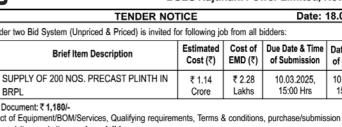
Image: Description of the description	Group	idders must be enrolled in <u>www.assamtenders.gov.in</u> . <b>Name of work</b>	Approximate	1	Tender	Earnest M				
	no.		value of work (in lakh)	completion (in months)	fee	General category	Reserved category			
GR27       Reserved references		1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1	132.79	6	2656	265580	132790			
		Barpeta district 2) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory, 1						one year, or fined one year, or fined Cingapore's Indian-origin at least SGD		
No. 2No. 2 <th< td=""><td></td><td>at PM-Shri Patacharkuchi Vidyapith HS School in Barpeta district</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pritam Singh was on Monday However, the fined SGD 14,000 after a dis- E l e c t i o n s lying in the house warranted in Singh's case.</td></th<>		at PM-Shri Patacharkuchi Vidyapith HS School in Barpeta district						Pritam Singh was on Monday However, the fined SGD 14,000 after a dis- E l e c t i o n s lying in the house warranted in Singh's case.		
<ul> <li>Band J. M. Sampa A. Sampa</li></ul>		Library at PM-Shri Adarsha Vidyalaya, Ganakuchi, Barpeta in Barpeta district						two counts of lying under firmed on Monday oath to a parliamentary com- that the sentence lying case of a fellow ly giving two false answers to former party mem- the COP during its inquiry		
Res		1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1	113.82	6	2276	227640	113820	mittee.imposed on Singh does not reach the SGD 7,000 for each of his twoimposed on Singh does not reach the threshold to dis-ber and MP Raeesah Khan in 2021.into Khan's case on December 10 and December 15, 2021.		
		in Barpeta district, 2) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1						charges. qualify him as an Singh, 48, was testifying in two cases. Speaking to reporters after MP. It said disqualification is found to have given false tes- On one occasion, he had said		
Mathematical and the stateMathematical and the state		in Barpeta district, 3) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1						Opposition said he will be for a single offence. committee that was looking meeting between him, Khan running for the general elec- In a Facebook post, Singh into the conduct of former and WP leaders Sylvia Lim		
		Library at PM-Shri Gobardhana High School (Amal) in Barpeta district	75.88	6	1518	151760	75880	this year. legal team to file a notice of Khan, who had admitted to Manap, he wanted Khan to The Constitution states that a appeal and to look into the making up a story about clarify that she had lied in		
<ul> <li>And A. A.</li></ul>		construction of 4 additional classroom at Lengtisinga HS School in Bongaigaon district						and be disqualified from detail. victim to the police station. On two other occasions, he standing for election if he is Fielding questions from the Singh is secretary-general of had said that during a meeting		
		Construction of 1 Science laboratory, 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1	113.82	6	2276	227640	113820	<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> the sentencing, Singh said that and was convicted on Monday. he had asked her to come		
Bit Amount of the fire from and th		Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Judhisthir Saha HS School in Cachar district, 2) Construction						MASUDABAD, RANAJI I KNIA, VILLAGE MASUDABAD, RANAJI ENCLAVE, RANAJAFGARH NEW DELHI-110043 and, Sh. Chandan Kumar purchase property from Smt. Kunjan Ahuja vide Notarized GPA, ATS and will dated 33.09.		
		Shri Satkarakandi High School in Cachar district	112.92		2276	207640	112920	daforesaid property. And it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person event my said client and said institution react		
		1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Art & craft room at PM-Shri Dekargaon High	113.02	, °	2210	22/040	113620	AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION Construction and a series and a price of the series of the seri		
Control       Contro       Control       Control		2) Construction of 1 Science laboratory, 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and						Mobile :- 9899013918         CMC/BR/25-26/         SUPPLY OF 200 NOS. PRECAST PLINTH IN         ₹ 1.14         ₹ 2.28         10.03.2025,         10.03.2025,		
	;	1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Kharupetia HS School in Darrang district		6	1897	189700	94850	area measuring 79.42 Sq. Mtrs out of Total area 158.85 sq. Mtrs. Out of Khasra no. 455, situated in Vilage Salarpur Khandar, Pargana and Teshil Dadri, For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender		
Biologenergy of Linear systems of		1) Construction of 2 Additional classroom and 1 Science laboratory at PM-Shri Gogamukh						Gift Dated 26.10.2024 executed Mr. Ravindra Bhati S/o Mr. Chandar Vide Reg. No. 1403 at SR-1 N0IDA U.P. The above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fedbank Financial Services Limited. Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 I Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527 Telephone No.: +91 11 4910 7235 L Website : www.besedelbi.com		
		2) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at PM-Shri Puspadhar Pegu Memorial						If any person/ bank/financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the Public Notice		
	Group-7	Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1	151.76	6	3035	303520	151760	Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim. Jeno The State Sta		
		Dhubri district, 2) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1						objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi- 110092; Mobile Number 9811215181 Mr. Prakash Chander is in the process of mortagica pt be aid of det Mith Aditya Birta Houseing dated 24.08.2023 and Mr. Ali Rahbar vide sale deed no. 22013, dated 24.08.2023 and Mr. Ali Ashbar Gang, 2. Sh. Sushi Kumar Gang, 3. Smt. Sweety Chauhan & dated 14.09.2023 Now M/s. Madina Builders Ashbar Gang, 3. Smt. Sweety Chauhan & dated 14.09.2023 Now M/s. Madina Builders		
Control         Control <t< td=""><td></td><td>School in Dhubri district,</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Displace Noncersite programment and will dated 11.11.2021 and will dat</td></t<>		School in Dhubri district,						Displace Noncersite programment and will dated 11.11.2021 and will dat		
Control         Control <t< td=""><td></td><td>Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Dhubri Govt.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Varias, situated in the colony known as Laipat Nagar, II. New Delhi - 110024 from Gurveen Kaur Suri, having acquired the said property by virtue Sale Deed Jated JS/5/2022 (Doc. no.2473) executed by Manit Kaur Sale for self and as attorney of Anundeep S. Kakkar and Tarundees S. kakkar and Gurveen Kaur Suri. December 2014 (Doc. no.2473) and Gurveen Kaur Suri. Law Veritas: North (Advocates &amp; Legel and Tarundees S. kakkar and Gurveen Kaur Suri. December 2014 (Doc. no.2473) and Suri. Decembe</td></t<>		Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Dhubri Govt.						Varias, situated in the colony known as Laipat Nagar, II. New Delhi - 110024 from Gurveen Kaur Suri, having acquired the said property by virtue Sale Deed Jated JS/5/2022 (Doc. no.2473) executed by Manit Kaur Sale for self and as attorney of Anundeep S. Kakkar and Tarundees S. kakkar and Gurveen Kaur Suri. December 2014 (Doc. no.2473) and Gurveen Kaur Suri. Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legel and Tarundees S. kakkar and Gurveen Kaur Suri. December 2014 (Doc. no.2473) and Suri. Decembe		
Biology	Group-8	Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory, 1	94.85	6	1897	189700	94850	Singh Suri as her átromey holder vide SPA dated 30(8)2024 (loc. No. 2024/9)(V)1280 to sell her adi accounts@twnorth.in Property to my client for which said property will be		
Grang-A         Rengination of a same physical state of a state of		Golaghat district, 2) Construction of 2 Additional classroom and						against the light as availed by my clients. All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), offt, trust, inheritance, family		
Comp-1         Spectromage of PA-Simplement of PA-Simplemen		School in Golaghat district	56,91	6	1138	113820	56910	arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, piedge, easement or therwise howsever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address)		
Comp-1         Spectromage of PA-Simplement of PA-Simplemen		construction of 1 Physics laboratory, 1 chemistry laboratory and 1 biology laboratory						On Participatory infigation organization of the above field within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claims, failing which the claims of any of such person, which are a solution of the above field within 7 days from the been waived in the claims of the above field within 7 days from the been waived in the claims of the above field within 7 days from the been waived in the claims of the above field within 7 days from the been waived in the claims of the above field within 7 days from the been waived in the claims of the above field within 7 days from the been waived in the claims of the above field within 7 days from the been waived in the claims of the above field within 7 days from the days from the days from the solution of the above field within 7 days from the days from the solution of the above field within 7 days from the days from the solution of the above field within 7 days from the days from the days from the solution of the above field within 7 days from the days from the solution of the above field within 7 days from the days from the days from the solution of the above field within 7 days from the days from the solution of the above field within 7 days from the days from the solution of the above field within 7 days from the days from the days from the solution of the above field within 7 days from the days from		
<ul> <li>I - Contruction of I - Some balance has been balance has been</li></ul>	Group-10	district Strengthening of PM-Shri schools:	113.82	6	2276	227640	113820	In the matter of M/s. A.K.G. Securities and Consultancy Limited (CIN- U74899DL1994) Is proposed to be changed to BCC050005 baylon if a 3276/		
Bits data		Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Govt Girls HS and MP School in						PLC/039000/, having its kego. On: at 37.67 Junction and the same would be freated as unclaimed and 310, 311 & 312 Nimal Market, Netaji Subhash Indian Network on Agriculture publication of this notice. The person claiming the same would be freated as unclaimed and any right, interest, objections with respect to the same would be freated as unclaimed and moved forth accordinole.		
Bioles High School (A) control (darked)       Bioles High School (A) control (dar		2) Construction of 2 Additional classroom and						that the company had been granted an NBFC Certificate (bearing Registration Number B-14.00812) by the RBI on 13th October, 2000.The Company lost the said original		
at JM-Sim Dandama HS School In Kamopi       a	Group-11	Saikia High School in Jorhat district Strengthening of existing PM-Shri schools	56.91	6	1138	113820	56910	office from Karkardooma Delhi to Darya Ganjon 17.06.2022 and in that regard an FIR was registered vide LR No.2548241/2025.		
Gunge Ji		chemistry laboratory and 1 biology laboratory at PM-Shri Damdama HS School in Kamrup						Nimal Market, Netaji Subhash Marg, Darya name change will proceed as interfaces, tools at Pushpa G ujral Science City, Kapurthala with 3 (thread busines) wars on the comprehensive warranty.		
Ubrary at PM-Smith Marjait Kand Public HS         Station in Keningen diskut.         Obrary at PM-Smith Marjait Kand Public HS         Station in Keningen diskut.         School in Keningen diskut.         Station in Keningen diskut.         Stat	Group-12	Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1	151.76	6	3035	303520	151760	Information is provided in this regard that the said certificate is untraceable and a statutory warming is hereby given to the general public, not to misuse it. Otherwise, civil and criminal Secretary - Indian Network on Note: PGSC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and		
Library a PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in School in School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in School in School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in School in School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Library and PM-Sin Bubban HS School in School in School in Namings district.       Sin Construction of Libra		School in Karimganj district, 2) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1						case shall be registered against that person.     Participatory Irrigation       For A.K.G. Securities and Consultancy Ltd.     Sd-       JAI KUMAR RAI (Director)     Management (IndiaNPIM),       Table - googon (2005)     For details log onto: www.pgsciencecity.org		
Library at MM-Shri Lakhing Baar High School         International School         Internatin School         International School		Library at PM-Shri Budhan HS School in Karimganj district,						Email: akgsecurities1@gmail.com Contact No. 9717099472 Email : indianpim24@gmail.com		
Kampang district.         Construction of Library, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri schools:         113.82         6         227.6         227.640         113820           Cincur-10         Strangel memory of Library, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri schools:         113.82         6         227.6         227.640         113820           Cincur-10         Strangel memory of Library, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri schools:         15.86         6         157.68         6         157.68         113.820         Non-entity laboratory at PM-Shri schools:         Non-entity laboratory at		Library at PM-Shri Lakshmi Bazar High School in Karimganj district,						POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix IV) Rule 8(1)		
Undup-13       Strengthening of PM-Stri schools       75.82       0       22.19       21.90       11.822       0       22.19       11.822       11.822       0       12.19		Library at Chorgola Public HS School in Karimganj district			007-			Institution, for the purposes of the "The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, having its registered office at:-		
Shri Chilamata High School In Lakhimpur district, Chemistry Laboratory and Hrysics Eaboratory at PM-Shri Lakhimpur district Chemistry Laboratory and Hrysics Eaboratory at PM-Shri Khamamukh HS School in Sonhpur High School under Gauge district Chemistry Hole Chemistry Hole Chemistry High School under Gauge district Group-10 High School under Gauge district Group-20 High School under Gauge district Group-20 High School under Gauge district Group-20 High repairing of PM-Shri Bojuri RK K High repa		1) Construction of 1 Library, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-	113.82	6	2276	227640	113820	Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 (ssued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers and control and the Control and Control a		
Chernstery and PM-Shri Lakhingur district. Group-14 Strengthening of Skills and Skingur 20 MBS choice strengthening of Skills and Skills and Skil		district,						Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, hereby issue you the following notice :- notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conference on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on as or under mentioned Date. The borrower (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on Ast : H, No. 17, Sainthalii, Utilage Sainthaly, Datri, Gautam Budh Nagar, Dadri, Cholas, Uttar Pradesh-203207, Also At : H, No. 17, Sainthalii, Distr, Gautam Sainthalii, Changa Sainthalii, Changa Sainthalii, Changa Sainthalii, Changa Sainthalii, Changa Sainthaliii, Changa Sain		
Lake Infly         Calculation         Total Work         Total		Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Lakhimpur Govt HS School in						any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "MBH" and interest other charges thereon. The attention of the Borrower is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.		
Group-15       Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry 1) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry 19 School code and PM-Shri School Schools: 1) Physics laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory and 1 Physi	Group-14	Strengthening of existing PM-Shri schools construction of 4 additional classroom at	75.88	6	1518	151760	75880	Niwas Singh S/O Surbasi 3 Ravinder Kumar 4 Sukhasi S/O Shree Rheera All At		
1) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at DM-Shri RDP HS School Store (Store)       94.85       Image: Store of the store (Store)       Image: Store (Store)       Im		district		6	1897	189700	94850	Amount of Demand Notice : Rs. 14,55,724.72/- as on 04.11.2024		
All construction of 1 Biology laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Janata HS School in South Salmara-Mankachar district       Sel 31       6       1739       173862       86931         Group-16       Major repairing of PM-Shri Dhupdhara High School under Rongui block in Gaubatea district       66.87       6       1337       133740       66870         Group-19       Major repairing of PM-Shri Boko Inder Changua Disck in Kamurg district       63.435       6       1204       120366       60183         Group-18       Major repairing of PM-Shri Boko High School under Boko block and PM-Shri Boko High School under Changua District       66.87       6       1337       133740       66870         Group-19       Major repairing of PM-Shri Boko High School under Changua District       33.435       6       669       66870       33435         Group-19       Major repairing of PM-Shri Boko High School under Changua District       33.435       6       66870       33435         Group-19       Major repairing of PM-Shri Boko Index in Marmurg       86.931       6       1739       173862       86931         High School under Changua District       86.931       6       66870       33435       86931       1.337       133740       66870       33435         Group-19       Major repairing of PM-Shri Borguri R.K.S High School under Changua District <td></td> <td>1) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri RBP</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Details of Property : Residential House Number-194, Which Is A Single Storeyed House, Total Area 300 Square Yards I.E. 250.83 Square Meters, In Which Six Rooms, One Toilet And Bathroom And One Staticase Are Built, Whose Total Covered Area Is 250 Square Yards I.E. 290.02 Square Meters, I, The First Party/Donor Dadalai, Am The Owner, Document And Possessor (Of The "Anderoon Asharti Villane Atracture" Party Donor Asharti Villane Atracture "Dercana And Tabeil" Notes and Ander Static Cover Ander Area Is 260 Square Interest, cost incidental expenses, Charges etc., failing which MANIBHAVNAM HOME INAVATE LIMITED will take and context and and context and the "Anderona Asharti Villane Atracture" Party Donor Dadalai, Am The Owner, Document and Possessor (Of The "Anderona Asharti Villane Atracture" Party Donor Dadalai and Tabeil</td>		1) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri RBP						Details of Property : Residential House Number-194, Which Is A Single Storeyed House, Total Area 300 Square Yards I.E. 250.83 Square Meters, In Which Six Rooms, One Toilet And Bathroom And One Staticase Are Built, Whose Total Covered Area Is 250 Square Yards I.E. 290.02 Square Meters, I, The First Party/Donor Dadalai, Am The Owner, Document And Possessor (Of The "Anderoon Asharti Villane Atracture" Party Donor Asharti Villane Atracture "Dercana And Tabeil" Notes and Ander Static Cover Ander Area Is 260 Square Interest, cost incidental expenses, Charges etc., failing which MANIBHAVNAM HOME INAVATE LIMITED will take and context and and context and the "Anderona Asharti Villane Atracture" Party Donor Dadalai, Am The Owner, Document and Possessor (Of The "Anderona Asharti Villane Atracture" Party Donor Dadalai and Tabeil		
1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Janata HS School in South Salmara-Mankachar district       1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Janata HS School in South Salmara-Mankachar district       1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Janata HS School under Rongui Ibock in Calapara district       1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Dhupdhara High School under Rongui Ibock in Calapara district       1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Abdul Hasib HS School under Hojai-Municipality block in Hojai district       66.931       6       1 739       1 73862       86931         Group-17       Major repairing of PM-Shri Abdul Hasib HS School under Hojai-Municipality block in Hojai district       60.183       6       1 204       1 20366       60183         Group-18       Major repairing of PM-Shri Boko High School under Boko block and PM-Shri Barburidgoon High School under Chaygaon block in Major repairing of PM-Shri Boryuri R.K.S High School under Chaygaon block in Nagaon district       66.87       6       1337       133740       66870       33435         Group-19       Major repairing of PM-Shri Boryuri R.K.S High School under Gauisagar block and Nagaon district       33.435       6       66870       33435       6       66870       33435         Group-20       Major repairing of PM-Shri Boryuri R.K.S High School under Gauisagar block and PM-Shri Barmukh HS School under Gauisagar block and Nagaon district       33.435       6       66870       33435       6       1739       173862       86931       6       1739       173862       86931 </td <td></td> <td>ManKachar district, 2) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory and</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Sunil Kumar, West House Kishan Lal, North House Salek Chand, South-Rasta 25 Ft Wide</td>		ManKachar district, 2) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory and						Sunil Kumar, West House Kishan Lal, North House Salek Chand, South-Rasta 25 Ft Wide		
High School under Rongjuli block in Goalpara district       No.		1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Janata HS School in South Salmara-Mankachar district	86.024		1720	172900	86024	Nole:		
Group-18       Major repairing of PM-Shri Boko High School under Boko block and PM-Shri Bamunigaon High School under Chaygaon block in Kamrup district       66.87       6       1337       133740       66870         Group-18       Major repairing of PM-Shri Bamunigaon High School under Chaygaon block in Kamrup district       66.87       6       1337       133740       66870         Group-19       Major repairing of PM-Shri Borjuri R.K.S High School under Bajiagaon block in Nagaon district       33.435       6       669       66870       33435         Group-20       Major repairing of PM-Shri Barpatradole High School under Gaurisagar block and PM-Shri Barmukh HS School under Sivasagar block in Sivescent district       6       1739       173862       86931       6       1140 histor       11400 histor         Group-20       Major repairing of PM-Shri Barpatradole High School under Gaurisagar block and PM-Shri Barmukh HS School under Sivasagar block in       6	Group-17	High School under Rongjuli block in Goalpara district Major repairing of PM-Shri Abdul Hasib HS						<ol> <li>There are 20 groups and one bidder can participate in more than one group. But no bidder will be awarded more than 2 groups of work, even if their financial bids rank at L1.</li> </ol>		
High School under Chaygaon block in Kamrup       Image: School under Chaygaon block in Kamrup       Image: School under Samagra Shiksha.         Group-19       Major repairing of PM-Shri Borjuri R.K.S       33.435       6       669       66870       33435         Group-20       Major repairing of PM-Shri Barpatradole High       86.931       6       1739       173862       86931       6       1739       173862       86931       6       1139       173862       86931       6       1139       173862       86931       6       1139       173862       86931       6       1139       173862       86931       6       1139       173862       86931       6       1139       173862       86931       6       1139       113862       86931       6       1139       113862       86931       6       1139       113862       86931       6       1139       113862       86931       6       1139       113862       86931       6       1139       113862       86931       6       1139       113862       86931       6       1139       113862       86931       6       1139       113862       86931       6       1139       113862       86931       6       1149       1149       1149       1149	Group-18	Major repairing of PM-Shri Boko High School	66.87	6	1337	133740	66870	evaluation purpose. For any discrepancy between the online bid and the hard copy of the bid, the online bid will govern and will be considered for evaluation. 4. Along-with the hard copy of the technical bid, the following documents must also be submitted on or before 11-03-2025 up to 1400 hrs :-		
High School under Bajiagaon block in Nagaon district       High School under Salar diel original technical papers at a resolution of too up (in colour mode) in, por format tor multiple pages with maximum file size of 25 MB. If the file size exceeds 25 MB, the bidders are advised to create multiple files and upload the same in "Upload Additional Document" stage.         Group-20       Major repairing of PM-Shri Barpatradole High School under Gaurisagar block and PM-Shri Banmukh HS School under Sivasagar block in Sivasseer district       6       1739       173862       86931       6       16 the event of date of bid opening being a holiday, the activities will take place on the next working day.         7.       All the interested bidders are requested to read the bid document carefully before submission of their bid.       Sd/-         Size state advised to state of bid opening being a holiday.       Mission Director Samagra Shiksha.       Mission Director Samagra Shiksha.		High School under Chaygaon block in Kamrup district	22.425		660	66070	22405	<ul> <li>b. Copy of bid security/ EMD submitted online at www.assamtenders.gov.in.</li> <li>c. Copy of tender fee submitted online at www.assamtenders.gov.in.</li> </ul>		
School under Gaurisagar block and PM-Shri Banmukh HS School under Sivasagar block in Sivasagar block in		High School under Bajiagaon block in Nagaon district								
Since and the second district		School under Gaurisagar block and PM-Shri	86.931	6	1739	173862	86931	<ol><li>All the interested bidders are requested to read the bid document carefully before submission of their bid.</li></ol>		
		9					Cont	Mission Director Samagra Shiksha.		



# Indian-origin leader fined for lying to

world 09

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delh									
	TENDER NO	FICE Date: 18.02.202							
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders:									
NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening				
CMC/BR/25-26/ FK/CR/SS/1250	SUPPLY OF 200 NOS. PRECAST PLINTH IN BRPL	₹ 1.14 Crore	₹ 2.28 Lakhs	10.03.2025, 15:00 Hrs	10.03.2025, 15:15 Hrs				





# **Profit booking leading FIIs** to sell Indian equities: FM

#### PTI MUMBAI

Seeking to assuage concerns over Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) selling Indian equities lately, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday attributed the

action to profit booking. Speaking to reporters in the financial capital, Sitharaman said the Indian economy is one where the investors are bagging better returns which leads to profit booking.

FIIs also go out when they are able to or in a position to book profits. Indian market today, Indian economy today, has an environment in which investments are also yielding good returns and profit booking is also happening," she said.

It can be noted that FIIs have sold over ₹1.56 Lakh Crore of stocks since October last year, including nearly ₹1 Lakh Crore



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses a press conference, in Mumba

sharp correction on the indices and wiping out investor wealth. right now, they tend to go back Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said FIIs are not moving from one emerging market to other, and added that

in 2025 itself, which has led to a in times of global uncertainties that Indian markets are like the one being witnessed to the country of origin, which is mostly the US. He also hinted that these shifts may be temporary, and added

resilient. Explaining that apart from demand-supply issues, growth prospects also influence investor behavior, Pandey said India remains the fastest growing large economy and

added that the recently announced Budget has a slew of

growth-oriented measures. have faced global We headwinds in the past, and will continue to face them. But I think India is in a strong position to handle it," he added. Ajay Seth, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, dismissed any idea of a government interference in the market because of the heavy sell-offs, stating that such a move can be carried out only if there is any evidence of market failure, which is not the case at present. Seth said equities do not

function on government policies alone, and added that foreign investors go to developed or bigger markets in periods of uncertainties.

He said that while India has shown resilience when it comes to world events in parts, it is not fully de-coupled either.

### Experts intrigued by inclusion of electoral bonds in Income Tax Bill

#### PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

Experts are intrigued by Ethe new Income Tax Bill, 2025 retaining provisions related to electoral bonds, which were rendered unconstitutional by the Supreme Court last year, saying it could be because of legislative oversight or the government's intention to bring it back in some other form.

Electoral bonds have been mentioned in the new Income Tax Bill's Schedule VIII which deals with 'Income not to be included in the total income of political parties and electoral trusts'. In a judgement passed on February 15 last year, the Supreme Court had scrapped the Centre's electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding, calling it "unconstitutional" as it was 'violative" of the right to freedom of speech and expression and right to information.

Under the existing Income Tax Act, 1961, donations received from companies and individuals through electoral bonds are exempt in the hands of political parties.

The government has brought in a new Income Tax Bill to replace the 64-year old I-T Act. The 622-page Bill is a simplified version of the existing Act which has become complicated over the years because of over 4,000 amendments.

About the electoral bond related provisions in the new I-T Bill, AMRG and associates senior partner Rajat Mohan said the mention of electoral bond provisions in the new Income Tax Bill could be because of a legislative oversight, or a deliberate move to keep the door open for a modified version of the scheme in the future. "While the Supreme Court

had strong and justified grounds for striking down

the scheme, the concerns it highlighted can be addressed through structured dialogue and expert consultations. The government still retains the legislative authority to reintroduce a revised donation political framework, provided it aligns with constitutional principles and ensures transparency in electoral funding," he said.

Mohan said mentioning of the electoral bond in the new Bill may be a strategic decision by policymakers to leave room for future electoral financing reforms. Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas and Co Partner Rohit Garg said the changes in the new income tax bill are merely structural in nature. There have been no major changes in the substantive provisions and the charging sections. Every provision which was not rendered obsolete has been carried forward into the new Act.

#### Udaan secures \$75 million in funding round **IPO-bound NSDL profit**

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

# jumps 30 per cent

#### PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

National Depository Securities Limited (NSDL) on Monday reported a 30 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹85.8 Crore for three months ended December 2024. The depository registered ₹66.09 Crore profit in the year-ago period.

The total income rose 16.2 per cent to ₹391.21 Crore in the October-December quarter of the current financial year (FY25) against ₹336.67 Crore in the same quarter preceding fiscal, NSDL said in a statement

For the nine months ended December 2024, NSDL posted a 32.6 per cent year-on-year growth in net profit to ₹259.82 Crore and a 13.3 per cent yearon-year increase in total income to ₹1,141.4 Crore.

NSDL is India's first securities depository to reach ₹500 Lakh Crore (\$6 Trillion) in value of assets held in custody in bourse, September 2024 In October, NSDL received

markets regulator Sebi's go-

ahead to launch an initial

public offering (IPO). The proposed IPO is complete offer for sale (OFS) of more than 5.72 Crore equity shares by shareholders, including National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), State Bank of India (SBI), and HDEC Bank as per the draft HDFC Bank, as per the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Since the public issue is completely an OFS, NSDL will

not receive any proceeds from the IPO. NSDL is a SEBI-registered market infrastructure

institution offering a wide range of products and services to the financial and securities markets in India. Following the introduction of the Depositories Act in 1996, NSDL pioneered the dematerialisation of securities the in India in November 1996. This will become the country's second publicly traded

depository to list on the after Central Depository Services (CDSL), which got listed on NSE in 2017.

 $O_{\text{business}}^{\text{nline}}$ business-toplatform Udaan has closed a Series G equity funding round of \$75 Million, led by M and G Plc, according to people in the know.

Company Co-Founder and CEO Vaibhav Gupta announced the round's closure to employees on Monday, and mentioned that the company is in advanced discussions to close an additional equity round of \$25 Million from potential investors in the "coming juarter".

The Series G funding round, led by M and G Plc and supported by existing investors like Lightspeed existing Venture Partners, comes after a \$340 Million fundraise in December 2023. A query to the company did not elicit any response till the filing of this story.

Udaan intends to use the newly acquired capital to improve customer experience, expand its market reach, strengthen partnerships with vendors, and bolster long-term capabilities in supply chain



and credit, sources said. Last month, The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) gave a green light for Udaan to merge its multiple business entities into one - Hiveloop Ecommerce Pvt Ltd. The unification of its trade. business under a single

strengthens Udaan's operating model as it prepares for a potential IPO in 2026.

The company is on track to achieving profitability, with

### Airtel completes landing of **SEA-ME-WE-6** submarine cable

land-based networks.

21,700 route kilometres (Rkm)

submarine cable system connects India to Singapore

and France (Marseille) crossing Egypt through terrestrial cables.

#### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel on Monday landing of the new Southeast Asia-Middle East-West Europe-6 or SMW6 (SEA-ME-WE 6) submarine cable system in Chennai.

The company recently landed the SEA-ME-WE 6 cable in Mumbai on December 30, 2024.

"The cable landing, both in Mumbai and Chennai, will be fully integrated with Airtel's data centre arm, Nxtra by Airtel, at its large facilities in the respective cities with an aim to enable global hyperscalers and businesses in the country to seamlessly access international connectivity and data centre services," Bharti Airtel said in

completed by SubCom, a leading supplier of subsea fibre optic cable data systems responsible for the engineering, manufacture and installation of SEA-ME-WE-6. Cable landing stations connect submarine cable systems with According to the release, the

and capacity. As a key member of the consortium of the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system, Airtel has invested in the core cable and has additionally co-built a private network of four Fiber Pairs between Singapore, Chennai and Mumbai. This cable system will bring a whopping 220 terabits per second (TBPs) of global

capacity to India. Airtel's global network spans five continents. The company has investments in 34 cables globally with some of the recent ones, including two Africa, Southeast Asia-Japan Cable 2 (SJC2) and Equiano.

Apart from these cables that connect India to key regions like Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and US, Airtel's global subsea network investments also include large cable systems like i2i Cable Network (i2icn), Europe India Gateway (EIG), IMEWE, SEA-ME-WE-4, AAG, Unity, Gulf EASSy, Bridge International (GBI) and Middle East North Africa Submarine Cable (MENA Cable) among others.



in daily transacting buyers, the sources said. Founded in 2016, Udaan enables technology-based supply chain and logistics operations, focusing on B2B

It operates across diverse categories, including FMCG, staples, fruits and vegetables, and pharma. It claims to hold about 70

per cent market share in India.

a release. These cable landings were

With this, Airtel has further enhanced its network presence with diversified capacity in the submarine cable system, globally.

Sharat Sinha, Director and CEO of Airtel Business, said this new investment and milestone would further improve the company's secure, diverse and scalable global

network. "We are delighted to further strengthen our global connectivity by landing one of strengthen the largest cable systems into facilities. our This complements our existing strength network 0 400,000Rkms across 50 countries," Sinha said, adding that the move underlines Bharti Airtel's commitment to Digital address India's growing demand for global connectivity and data with

additional routes, diversity

tensions after the US imposed

tariffs on imports. This came

following a net outflow of ₹78,027 Crore in January.

"Markets eked out modest gains

in late recovery in a highly

volatile trade, but most

importantly it managed to halt

the eight-session losing streak.

"Positive Asian and European

indices aided sentiment, while

gains in select banking, oil and

gas, metal and power stocks helped local benchmarks

recover from their early lows,"

Rupee falls 16 paise against USD | Sensex, Nifty eke out gains in volatile session

#### PTI MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 16 paise L to close at 86.87 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, weighed down by significant foreign fund outflows and a recovery in the US dollar index from intraday lows.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee is trading with a negative bias as foreign banks went on a dollar-buying spree and importers scrambled to secure dollars, as they feared further depreciation amid global uncertainty.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 86.70 and touched the high of 86.68 against the greenback during intraday. It also touched the low of 86.88 before ending the session at 86.87 (provisional) against the dollar,

logging a loss of 16 paise from its previous close

On Friday, the rupee extended its recovery and settled 21 paise higher at 86.71 against the US dollar.

"Indian rupee declined today on a weak tone in the domestic markets and a recovery in the US dollar index from intraday lows. However, weak tone in crude oil prices and a decline in US



treasury yields cushioned the downside," said Anuj Choudhary - research analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

Traders may take cues from speeches by Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) members.

"We expect the rupee to trade with negative bias amid weakness in the domestic equities and FII outflows. Overall strength in the US dollar may also

weigh on the rupee. However, any further decline in the US treasury yields or any further intervention by the RBI may support the rupee at lower levels," Choudhary added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.14 per cent higher at 106.85.

umbrella

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.12 per cent to USD 74.83 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 57.65 points, or 0.08 per cent, to settle at 75,996.86, while the Nifty rose 30.25 points, or 0.13 per cent, to 22,959.50 points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,294.69 Crore in the capital

markets on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, India's forex reserves jumped

by \$7.654 Billion to \$638.261 Billion in the week ended February 7, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday.

This is the third consecutive week of a jump in the kitty, which had increased by \$1.05 Billion to \$630.607 Billion for the week ended January 31.

#### PTI MUMBAI

Stock markets snapped the eight-day losing run in a volatile session on Monday with benchmark Sensex closing higher by 57 points on the back of value buying in blue-chip stocks HDFC Bank and **Reliance Industries** 

Helped by fag-end buying, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 57.65 points or 0.08 per cent to settle at 75,996.86. During the day, the barometer tanked 644.45 points or 0.84 per cent to 75,294.76.

The NSE Nifty rebounded 30.25 points or 0.13 per cent to 22,959.50. Reports that the US and India will meet soon to decide on broad contours of a trade agreement for reducing tariffs supported buying in metal, pharma and financial shares, analysts said. From the 30-share blue-chip

pack, Bajaj Finserv, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Adani Ports, UltraTech Cement, HDFC Bank, Zomato and Tata Motors were among the major gainers. Mahindra and Mahindra,



Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, ICICI Bank, and ITC were the biggest laggards.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,294.69 Crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

The total outflow by FPIs has reached ₹99,299 Crore - near ₹1 Lakh Crore - in 2025 so far, data with the depositories showed. FPIs pulled out ₹21,272 Crore in the first two weeks of this month, driven by global

Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Satu. The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.51 per cent, while smallcap index declined 0.56 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, healthcare jumped 1.14 per cent energy (0.89 per cent) cent, energy (0.89 per cent), services (0.82 per cent), metal (0.76 per cent), power (0.75 per cent), oil and gas (0.74 per cent).Consumer Discretionary industrials,

telecommunication, auto, teck and BSE Focused IT were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled in the positive territory while Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading higher. US markets ended mostly lower on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.21 per cent higher at USD 74.90 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark dropped 199.76 points or 0.26 per cent to settle at 75,939.21 on Friday The Nifty declined 102.15 points or 0.44 per cent to 22,929.25.

#### IL&FS Group initiates ₹5,000 Bajaj Consumer Care to acquire Vishal Personal Care Centre considering raising deposit Crore interim payout to creditors insurance limit above ₹5 Lakh PTI NEW DELHI will be leveraging Vishal's value stands at ₹120 Crore, with extensive distribution network an enterprise value of

#### $F_{\text{Care Limited will acquire}}^{\text{MCG firm Bajaj Consumer}}$ rival Vishal Personal Care, which owns hair and skin care brand Banjara's, at an enterprise value of ₹108.3 Crore to deepen its penetration in the South Indian market

The board of Bajaj Consumer Care Ltd (BCCL), which operates in the personal care space and owns the Bajaj Almond Drops brand, in its meeting held last Friday, approved the acquisition 100 per cent stake in Vishal Personal Care in two tranches a 49 per cent in the first followed by remaining 51 per cent in the second tranche. "The estimated transaction approximately ₹108.3 Crore," BCCL said in a statement. This move aligns with BCCL's vision to expand its footprint across Indian markets, leveraging the growing demand for natural and Ayurvedic personal care products, it added

Banjara's, founded in 1991 in Hyderabad, has a diversified product portfolio, including facial kits, herbal powders, aloe vera gels, shampoos, and hair care powders. Its products have a retail presence of over 70,000 outlets across the five South markets through Indian cosmetics stores, supermarkets, pharmacies, and grocery chains. "With the acquisition of Vishal Personal Care, BCCL range for further expansion."

to deepen their penetration in South India," BCCL said, adding that it "will also introduce brand Banjara's products in its stronghold Hindi-speaking markets (HSM), effectively doubling its

reach in both the regions. BCCL Managing Director Jaideep Nandi said 'Acquisition of Vishal Personal Care Pvt Ltd is a strategic step in strengthening BCCL's in strengthening footprint in the five southern markets. The addition of Banjara's to our portfolio enhances our ability to serve the evolving consumers across India, while also complementing our product

#### PTI MUMBAI

The government is "actively considering" raising the deposit insurance limit beyond the current ₹5 Lakh, a top finance ministry official said on Monday

Days after the New India Cooperative Bank scam came to light, Department of Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju announced that such a proposal is in the works.

"The point about increasing insurance. That is under active consideration. As and when the government approves, we will notify it," he said at a press conference in the presence of

on the crisis at New India Cooperative Bank, saying the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is seized of the matter.

A deposit insurance claim gets triggered when a lender goes down, and over the years, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) has paid out such claims. The body collects premiums from banks for the cover it offers, and a majority of the claims have had to be done in case of cooperative lenders. It can be noted that following the PMC Bank scam, the

raised to ₹5 Lakh from ₹1 Lakh

Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said the cooperative banking sector is well regulated under the RBI's watch and termed the overall health of the sector as strong.

A crisis at one entity should not lead anybody to cast doubts on the overall sector, he added, pointing out that it is the job of the regulator to take actions against errant entities.

As per reports, 90 per cent of India Co-Operative New Bank's 1.3 Lakh depositors will have their entire sums covered under the DICGC.

#### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The IL&FS Group on Monday said un company has initiated ₹5,000 Crore interim payout to eligible creditors as part of its ongoing resolution mandate.

Post this payout, the company said that the aggregate debt discharged will stand at approximately ₹43,000 Crore, which is over 70 per cent of the estimated total debt resolution target pegged at ₹61,000 Crore. "IL&FS Group companies have initiated an interim distribution of ₹5,000 Crore

₹3,500 Crore Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) units and ₹1,500 Crore in cash to eligible creditors as part of the Group's ongoing resolution efforts," the statement said.

The interim distribution is largely being initiated by three holding companies Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN), and IL&FS Transportation Networks (ITNL) - that collectively hold the majority of the Group's debt and nests large creditors and public funds.

Finance Minister Nirmala DICGC insured limit was Sitharaman. He, however, declined to speak in 2020.



# Liverpool continues its charge with a 2-1 win against Wolverhampton

#### PTI LONDON

iverpool continued its charge toward the Premier League ⊿title with a 2-1 win against Wolverhampton. For Manchester United, it just keeps getting worse after a 1-0 loss at Tottenham. The fortunes of England's two most successful teams could

hardly be more contrasting. Victory for Liverpool saw the club

restore its seven-point lead over Arsenal at the top of the table and move ever closer to equaling Man United's record haul of 20 league crowns.

United, meanwhile, lost for the 12th time in the league this season and is 15th in the standings after James Maddison's first-half strike for Spurs.

It is turning out to be another miserable campaign for the club that dominated English soccer under former manager Alex Ferguson. That is a distant memory now, with United's wait to end its title drought set to extend to 12 years this season.

United has not been champion since Ferguson's final campaign in 2013. Ruben Amorim is the sixth permanent coach since then to be charged with the responsibility of restoring its supremacy, but his There could yet be a fourth

#### early tenure has been fraught with

problems. I am not worried. I understand our fans, what the media think about it. I hate to lose, that feeling is the worst," Amorim said. "I am here to help my players. I understand my situation, my job, I am confident on my work and I just want to win games. The place in the table is my worry, I am not

worried about me." CLASH OF CLUBS IN CRISIS This was Amorim's ninth defeat in 21 games in all competitions since taking over in November. He has only overseen four league wins in that time.

He already claimed in January that this could be the worst United team in the club's storied history and there is little sign of improvement.

Against a Spurs team that is also struggling in the wrong half of the table, Maddison's goal in the 13th minute at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium was enough to settle this clash of clubs in crisis. Some Tottenham fans are so dismayed by the state of their club that they staged a pre-match protest against chairman Daniel Levy. But this was the third time their team had beaten United this season.



encounter if both teams continue to advance in the Europa League. But the Premier League is Amorim's primary concern right now — even if a relegation fight remains unlikely. Despite being just three places above the drop zone, United is 12 points above the safety line.

United eight points off the top half.

NERVOUS LIVERPOOL

Liverpool had to withstand a fightback from Wolves, which included a brilliant long-range goal from Matheus Cunha.

Tejas Dhingra retains

That is little to shout about with and Mohamed Salah secured the win for Arne Slot's team, but an unconvincing performance after the break saw the home team fail to register a single shot on target as Wolves dominated the chances.

"Obviously 2-0 at halftime, we goal from Matheus Cunha. know that can be one of the most First-half strikes from Luis Diaz

had to come out and we had to start well – and we didn't quite do that," said Liverpool defender Andrew Robertson. "When they scored, everyone gets nervous. The players get nervous, the crowd get nervous - of course that's only natural. But it's a massive win for

us and another game down." Diaz bundled the ball over the line from close range in the 15th minute to give Liverpool the lead. And Salah doubled the advantage from the penalty spot in the 37th after Diaz was brought down. It was the Egypt international's

28th goal of an outstanding season and extended his current scoring streak to six straight games. But if the home crowd was

expecting a routine victory against 17th-placed Wolves, it was anything but. Liverpool conceded a goal in

stoppage time to draw 2-2 with Everton on Wednesday and was pushed again.

Cunha's drag-back and curled finish from around 20 yards (meters) in the 67th came after a sustained period of pressure from the visitors.

Before that Marshall Munetsi was denied when through on goal — it took a crucial block in front of goal from Jarell Quansah to prevent

him from converting late on "In a season where you want to achieve something, you need to have wins like this as well," Slot

sports 11

#### **INJURY CRISIS**

said.

United named eight teenagers on the bench who had never played a senior game for the club following an injury crisis at Old Trafford. Amad Diallo is likely to miss the rest of the season with an ankle injury and Lisandro Martinez has already been ruled out with cruciate ligament damage

Amorim was also without Leny Yoro, Kobbie Mainoo, Manuel Ugarte and Toby Collyer through injury or illness at Spurs.

It meant the United coach waited until the first minute of time added on to make a substitution replacing Casemiro for debutant Chido Obi

#### FANS PROTEST

Tottenham fans protested outside the stadium before kickoff, calling for chairman Daniel Levy and

owner ENIC to go. Giant banners read "Profits before glory" and "We want our club back" as supporters let their feelings be known.

The protest was organised by a fans' group called "Change for Tottenham".

# Frankfurt beats Kiel 3-1

#### PTI BERLIN

Eintracht Frankfurt snapped its run of three Frankfurt draws and consolidated third place in the Bundesliga with a

3-1 win over relegation-threatened Holstein Kiel. Hugo Ekitiké saw a penalty saved and had a late goal ruled out for offside, but others stepped up to score the goals that showed Frankfurt can live without Egypt forward Omar Marmoush.

Marmoush, Frankfurt's top-scorer with 15 league goals this season, joined Manchester City for a reported 70 million euros (\$73 million) during the winter transfer period and scored a bat trick for his new scored a hat trick for his new team on Saturday.

"We sent an extremely young team onto the field, one that played with confidence, composure and maturity," Frankfurt coach Dino Toppmöller said.

"We've finally won again and now gone seven league games in a row without defeat," he said. "The table looks nice, but there are still many games to play. We have to stay confident."

Toppmöller's team moved five points clear of fourth-placed



Leipzig, which occupies the fourth goal of the season in last place for Champions the 59th League qualification after 22 Kiel's Finn Porath scored at of 34 rounds. the third attempt in the 73rd

Goal gift after Kevin Trapp saved his first two efforts but it wasn't Hugo Larsson broke the deadlock with his knee in the enough to stop Kiel dropping to last place after this round of

18th minute, and Brazilian defender Tuta was left free at the back post to score Frankfurt's second in the 37th after Kiel failed to deal with a corner.

Ekitiké had the chance to make it 3-0 before the break but Thomas Dähne dived the right way to push away the French forward's penalty. Frankfurt was later gifted the

and just a point above Kiel. third goal anyway. Čan Uzun Hoffenheim came fro gratefully took David Zec's behind to win 3-1 at Were botched backpass to score his Bremen in the early game. Hoffenheim came from behind to win 3-1 at Werder

Saturday.

### Show Jumping title PNS NEW DELHI

Tejas Dhingra Defends National Championship Title at NEC Show Jumping 2024-25Tejas Dhingra of Beeya's Riding Facility successfully defended his National Championship title at the National Equestrian Championship (Show Championship (Show Jumping) 2024-25, held at Modi Equestrian Academy in Meerut on Sunday. The reigning champion secured wictory in the Championship victory in the Champion secured Tour with 16 points, finishing ahead of joint runners-up Amar Sarin from Tarc Equestrian Centre and Ashray Butta of EGC Stables.

Meanwhile, Yashaan Zubin Khambatta of Tarc Equestrian Centre achieved remarkable double a remarkable double triumph, dominating both the Novice and Medium Tours. In the Medium Tour, Sehaj Singh Virk and Abhishek Chopra shared second place, while in the Novice Tour, Narayan Singh secured the runner-up secured the runner-up position, joining Yashaan on the podium after the latter impressively claimed the top



two spots

Saturday, On the Preliminary Tour Individual Final saw Avik Bhatia of Modi Equestrian Stables clinch the gold medal with a flawless performance and a time of 31.02 seconds. Major Ritika Dahiya of Team ASC delivered a strong showing to secure second place, while Dushyant Nagar finished third.

A standout moment of the competition was the performance of 13-year-old Sravya Vohra, the youngest participant. She impressed with her composure and skill, finishing fifth overall. In recognition of her remarkable effort, the Modi Equestrian Academy and the Equestrian Federation of India awarded her a Special Appreciation Prize.



#### **PTI** BHUBANESWAR

The Indian women's hockey team will be eager to get back to winning ways when it faces a confident Spain in the doubleheader here.

After a promising start with a thrilling 3-2 victory over England in their opener, the India narrowly missed out on a bonus point in their second game, losing 2-1 in a dramatic shootout after the match ended 2-2 in regulation time. Despite showing resilience, India currently sit in eighth place in the standings with four points from two games and will be looking to climb higher in the points table as they face a confident Spanish side on Tuesday and

Wednesday. India's performance against England offered glimpses of their potential, particularly in penalty corner conversions, where they scored twice from three attempts in their opening match. However, they failed to replicate that success in the second game, unable to convert any of their



three penalty corners. 'Spain is a tricky team, and we know it's going to be a challenging contest. However, we are ready for the challenge," India captain India captain Salima Tete said. 'We've our

analysed performances against England and identified the areas where we need to improve, especially in converting penalty corners. We are focused on tightening our defense and making the of our scoring most opportunities."

Spain, on the other hand, arrives on the back of two consecutive victories against Wednesday.

team's goal tally. Match starts 5:15 PM on Tuesday and 7:30 PM on

Germany in the India leg. They secured back-to-back 2 wins over the Germans, boosting their confidence.

Despite their strong recent performances, Spain has had a mixed run overall, with just two wins and one shootout

victory in six games. Currently placed fourth in the points table with eight points, Spain will be looking to further consolidate their position. Patricia Alvarez has been their standout player, scoring twice to lead the

### Leonard wins Chubb Classic for first PGA Tour Champions victory

games. Bochum climbed off

the bottom by defeating

Borussia Dortmund 2-0 on

Kiel could take some solace

from Heidenheim's 2-0 loss at

home to Mainz in Sunday's

late game. Heidenheim stayed

on 14 points, ahead of Bochum on goal difference,

#### PTI NAPLES

ustin Leonard won the Chubb Classic for his first PGA Tour Champions victory, overcoming a slow start with a back-nine charge on Tiburon's Black Course. Leonard birdied five of the last seven holes for a 4-under 68 and a four-stroke victory over Billy Andrade. The 52year-old Texan won in his 45th start on the 50-andover tour, his first victory since the last of his 12 PGA Tour titles in the 2008 St. Jude Championship.

"It's been a long time since I've won, and I tell myself all the time that I have won," Leonard said, fighting back tears on the 18th green. "But it's easy to kind of forget a little bit, and say, 'Well, you know, is it going to be?

"I just put a lot of work in. ... I mean, last year was so bad

it was good. It was good for me. Made some changes with my golf swing. ... It's just so fun to finally be here because I always felt like I would be. But it's nice to finally get it done.

After a bogey on 10 dropped him to 1 over for the day, Leonard scrambled for a key par on the 11th, then birdied the next three.

He scrambled again for par on the par-3 16th, then got a 30-footer to catch the right edge for birdie on the par-4 17th and got up-and-down from a greenside bunker on the par-5 18th for one last birdie.

"I just kept telling myself that I was still in it," Leonard said. "I felt like my best golf was ahead of me. I played



OK the first 10 holes. Eleven, the end of it was good, but it just wasn't my best golf. I kept telling myself to just own the last seven holes. Once I got a little bit of momentum I felt like I could

ride it." Leonard finished at 15under 201. He shot 65 on

Saturday to take a one-stroke lead and set himself up for the breakthrough victory in his return to competitive golf after a long run as a television analyst.

Leonard has starred at all levels, winning the 1992 U.S. Amateur and 1994 NCAA title for Texas to cap his

amateur career, then taking the 1997 British Open at

the 1997 British Open at Royal Troon and making the winning putt in the 1999 Ryder Cup at Brookline. "I didn't think about anything in particular today, but just knowing I've been there," Leonard said. "Even though it might have been 10, 20, 30 years ago, I've been able to do it before." able to do it before." Andrade also shot 68. Darren Clarke was third at

10 under, also shooting 68. Fred Couples had a 66 to tie for fourth at 9 under with Richard Green (68), Heath Slocum (70) and Paul

Stankowski (71). Ernie Els, a stroke behind Leonard entering the day, shot a 75 to finish 11th at 7 under. Bernhard Langer closed with a 70 to tie for 12th at 6 under.

India look to continue winning momentum against German hockey

#### PTI BHUBANESWAR

Their campaign back on track after a jittery start, India will look to continue the winning momentum when they take on Paris Olympics silver medallist Germany in their next men's FIH Pro League match on Tuesday.

India had a woeful start to their home leg matches of the Pro League, losing 1-3 to Spain in their opener. But the hosts bounced back

strongly to tame Spain 2-0 in the return match on Sunday. With three points from two games, India are currently sitting in eighth place in the standings and will be desperate to climb up the table. After a relatively off day

looked a completely different side on Sunday, dominating for most part of the match and scoring two field goals through Mandeep Singh (32nd minute) and Dilpreet Singh (39th) to pocket all three points.

While the strikers shone bright in the second game, India's chief coach Craig Fulton would be a bit concerned about penalty corner conversions.

Despite winning seven penalty corners across their two games, India failed to convert a single chance. In the absence of India

forward for Pakistan cricket.

"I think it means a lot to

everyone that we have shown

how resilient we were as a

cricket nation and how much

our people love cricket even when for 10 years no top team

Waqar, also a former captain

and who was head coach

when Pakistan were their

home matches in UAE, said

there was a big difference

between playing at home and

your home series in UAE. "I think this Champions

Trophy will only increase the

cricket passion and talent in

the country," he added.

played in Pakistan."

captain Harmanpreet Singh, who was rested for the second match, Hockey India League

on Saturday, the Indians star performer Jugraj Singh cut a sorry figure from set pieces.

The forwardline comprising Dilpreet , Mandeep and Sukhjeet Singh have each netted a goal for India so far in the tournament and will be looking to add to their tally

against Germany. The Indian defence produced a much-better display in the second game, and were able to absorb pressure from the Spanish strikers.

Germany, who will be playing their first match of the India leg, are placed just above India in seventh place with four points from as many and will be games determined to turn their fortunes around

# **Cricket fever grips Pakistan ahead of Champions Trophy**

#### PTI 📕 KARACHI

ricket fever has gripped Pakistan as the Champions Trophy unfolds with fans eagerly waiting for the action to begin here on Wednesday and businesses related to the game too picking up before the tournament opener between hosts Pakistan and New Zealand.

However, many in the country are disappointed that India are not playing their matches in Pakistan.

"It is disappointing because generally there is so much admiration for the Indian team and players, especially Virat Kohli, in our country," shopkeeper Moiz Ahmed said at the famous Zainab Market in the heart of Karachi's bustling Saddar area. Moiz is surprised at the demand for the Indian shirts

among the cricket fans along with the Pakistan team.

'Virat Kohli definitely has a big fan following in Pakistan," he said as youngsters mingled in the shop choosing different team shirts.

Kashif, a college student, said he had always admired Kohli as a player and also because of his humility. 'He is so down to earth in his

behaviour from what we see in the media," he said. in Zainab Shopkeepers market, which is famous for selling original licenses and at copies of the team shirts whenever a big cricket or football event happens, are

clearly happy that the Champions Trophy is being held in Pakistan. "I have sold nearly 4 to 5000

shirts in the last three days of the Pakistan and Indian teams," Javed Pakhali, a tournament.

shopkeeper, said.

Even in the enclosures during matches fans are not shy to wear or display pictures of Kohli and wear shirts with his name printed on them.

The Champions Trophy fever is also evident when one visits the match venue, National Stadium, as many fans are moving around the main gate to catch a glimpse of their favourite players as they come and go from the stadium.

On Monday, with the Pakistan team having a practice session the stadium's high performance centre, fans clamoured to see them in action.

sales online and Ticket through booths have also picked up according to a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official who now just wants the Pakistan team to do well in the



"I am sure if the team keeps on winning the demand for will tickets keep on

increasing," he said. The fact that a ICC event is being held in Pakistan with some matches in Karachi is now evident from the colourful banners, posters put

up around the city announcing the staging of the event. It is after 29 years that Pakistan is holding a proper multi team event although it hosted some matches of the Asia Cup in

2023 but the excitement didn't reach the levels being witnessed now.

Although the PCB and ICC militant attack on the Sri held a low-key opening ceremony, without the teams Lankan team bus in Lahore in March 2009 Pace great Waqar Younis said at the Lahore Fort on Sunday having the Champions Trophy night, in Karachi clearly the in the country was a big step tempo is growing.

Former captain Javed Miandad praised the PCB for bringing the ICC event to Pakistan

"I think the next few weeks are a celebration of the passion for cricket we have as a nation," Miandad said.

Miandad said that it is after a long time cricket fans will get to see top international players in action in their backyard. PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi also said at the opening ceremony that the tournament was a platform for Pakistan to showcase its hospitality and love for cricket.

For 10 years, no top team Naqvi also said they would be visited Pakistan after the trying to get more ICC events

in Pakistan.

He said, hopefully, Pakistan would also host the women's World Cup qualifiers later this /ear.

security for the The tournament is unprecedented and with Naqvi himself heading the federal interior ministry, no chances are being taken for the visiting teams.

Senior police official SSP Muqadas Haider said that the PCB and security agencies had planned things in such a way that visiting players also got a chance to go out and see

the city. Pakistan play New Zealand in the tournament opener and everyone expects a full house despite the ticket prices being

on the higher side. The provincial government has also declared a public holiday on Wednesday for a religious festival.



Bumrah's level.

otherwise.

forward all by himself?

pace bowling coach, said.

upfront consistently.

underlined that factor.

for India.

he added.

# India hope for Shami's wrist magic to reclaim Champions Trophy

#### PTI BENGALURU

ohammed Shami's right hand has more sleight than a magician. A simple cock of his wrist can outfox the best batters in the world. But can he unlock the sorcery and help India reclaim the ICC Champions Trophy (CT) after 12 years?

The fans will certainly expect Shami to hit his strides straightaway in the marquee event because India's primary strike weapon Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out due to an injury.

But there are multiple concerns as well about Shami's readiness for an event of this magnitude. India start their Champions Trophy campaign on February 20 against Bangladesh in Dubai.

The 34-year-old is coming back from an injury. Even though he has played a few matches at various levels and formats since his re-entry into cricket late last year, delivering in a high-pressure tournament is an altogether different proposition.

Another reason for the trepidation surrounding Shami is the absence of Bumrah, his trusted ally in the last six years or so at the other end. In the Champions Trophy, Shami



But can he find his optimal and "Old ball is anyway... It is a defensive game now. If he can ideal running speed, because Shami's effectiveness totally make early inroads regularly that depends on his rhythm. Balaji thought it was not a task will give a huge booster to India,' beyond Shami.

"Since that (ankle) injury has happened, there was a little bit of slowness, maybe. It's natural. But there is nothing you can do about it. It's part of any sportsperson's career.

"He has the experience to get over it and he will do it as he bowls more. It's just about accepting the (physical) condition and continuing his best practices," he said.

opener, who hit nine boundaries, added 54 for the

second wicket with left-hander Parth Rekhade (23),

who was out just before

lunch trying to drive Dube

turned enough to carry the edge which Mumbai skipper Ajinkya Rahane gleefully

Nair, who is in fantastic form

this season, looked effortless

to pouch it one-handed.

blended caution

stand with Shorey.

However, Shami's duty will not be just restricted to taking wickets, as the senior bowler will also have to guide understudies like Arshdeep and Harshit Rana during the course of the Champions Trophy. Balaji felt the body of work that Shami has built over the last 12 years makes him an ideal candidate for it.

"Shami is the leader of the pack right now. I mean, he has been the leader of the pack for a long time now. If you see what Shami has done in 12 years of cricket and, especially, in Test cricket, it has been humongous.

"Now, if he starts striking with the new ball the confidence it gives to other bowlers will be huge," he said.

It could be a blessing for Shami that India is playing their matches in Dubai, a venue where pacers found appreciable help in the past. "He keeps attacking the stumps, a quality that is very critical in a place like Dubai, where batsmen may get a little bit more assistance," said Balaji.

How does Shami manage to be so effective with the new ball? "Shami has one of the best wrist positions in the game, helping him bring all of his variations. See,

conditions in Dubai will more or less be similar to India, so he just needs to follow his methods there, he added.

#### So, what are those methods?

sports 12

'What Shami does is hit the seam and move the ball off the deck. It is dangerous as batsmen will not be able to guess easily which way the ball is going to move.

"It also brings into the equation the LBWs and clean bowled dismissals. The away movement ensures that slip cordon too will be in the mix," said Balaji.

And he also bowls closer to the stumps, which allows him to explore those subtle angles. So, he will always be among the wickets," he added.

But Shami will have another reason to go full tilt in the Champions Trophy.

Despite achieving so much in his career, the Bengal man is yet to win a global trophy, the status brag for any cricketer. And already closer to the dog days of his career, Shami might not get another chance to do it either. It might give him that extra dose of

motivation to run in hard in Dubai heat, snap his wrists, before batsmen walk out with a confused stare at the splayed stumps.

Pakistani's Haris



## Geraint Thomas to retire from cycling

#### PTI LONDON

Geraint Thomas, the former Tour de France champion who also won gold medals in track cycling for Great Britain at the Olympic Games in 2008 and '12, announced Monday that this will be his final year as a professional

Thomas, a loyal teammate with a tremendous appetite for victory who transformed into a leader in his own right over his almost two-decade career, said he will focus on the Tour this summer with Ineos Grenadiers.

Aged 38, Thomas told the BBC that he will ride in trained him as a British team support of the team's coach. ambitions and "may You co e trv to win a stage but just enjoy the race" that he won in 2018. "Since I was a kid I dreamt of riding the Tour and being he part of the Olympics and winning was obviously a dream as well, but to achieve

#### dedication and balanced lifestyle.

"He is a true fighter," said Dave Brailsford, the man who masterminded Britain's successes at the Olympics and Tour de France. Growing up on the outskirts of Cardiff, Wales, Thomas started bike racing at 10, and his exceptional qualities did not remain unnoticed for

long "I first saw him when he was about 13 or 14 and he joined me at 17," recalled Rod Ellingworth, the performance director at Team Sky when Thomas won the Tour, who also

see straightaway



the day as he got appreciable bounce and some amount of purchase from the Jamtha track.

Dube (2/35 in 9 overs) also had a couple wickets but one of them was more so because of a splendid one-handed diving catch by Suryakumar Yaday in the slip cordon.

Mumbai bowlers were also guilty of bowling as many as That Mumbai failed to make more inroads was because 13 no balls during the course the two new ball bowlers Shardul Thakur (0/57 in 14 Left-arm spinner Shams overs) and Mohit Avasthi Mulani (2/44 in 18 overs) (0/61 in 14 overs) were way was easily the best bowler on off the mark with both new

ball and second new ball at the fag end of the day.

The morning session belonged to Shorey, who capitalised on the half-volleys provided by Avasthi, who simply doesn't have the required pace to trouble batters if he doesn't get to swing the new ball.

As far as Shardul is concerned, he fed Shorey on the legs and got whipped. It was left-armer Royston Dias, who got the fourth wicket stand with breakthrough with a delivery that climbed on left-hander They were ready to use their

accepted.

Atharva Taide (4) as the feet with Malewar hitting the batter tried to shoulder arms. only six off the day off Shorey, a former Delhi Mulani, who was otherwise

in Anand.

out after some deliberation, Nair asked for review and the decision was upheld. Malewar's 159 ball knock ended when he tried to play forward defence to a Mulani

outside edge into keeper Anand's gloves.

the total past 300-run mark. **Brief Scores** 

with his express pace and ability to take wickets in the middle overs, sustained a muscular strain in his lower chest wall in the first match of the recently-held three-nation event.

# Kane Williamson joins Middlesex for 2025 season | Australian team arrives in

contention for a Test team berth, scored a chiselled 45

before he seemed distinctly

unhappy with a caught behind decision of Shivam

Dube's bowling although he had opted for DRS.

While the two-time champions didn't have a big

partnership, they had enough

middling stands to see them

cross 300-run mark after

Mumbai had sent down 88

overs in the day.

of the opening day.

first-ever direct signings for The

in full control. Nair, who had hit six

boundaries, looked control before a delivery from Dube in the post-tea session moved a shade and was taken by keeper Akash

but Surya standing at third slip showing brilliant reflexes While on-field umpire gave it Malewar, who has been Vidarbha's find of the season, with aggression after lunch, dominating in his 51-run

Shorey, who looked good for delivery that kissed the a three-figure mark, was finally gone when Mulani got one to jump off length and it

However the bespectacled pair of left-handed Yash Rathod (47 batting) and skipper Akshay Wadkar (13 batting) added 47 for the unbroken sixth wicket to take

while tackling both Mulani Vidarbha 308/5; 88 overs and off-spinner Tanush (Danish Malewar 79, Dhruv Kotian en route his 78-run Shorey 74, Karun Nair 45; Shams Mulani 2/44, Shuvam Dube 2/35) vs Mumbai.

**Pakistan for Champions Trophy** 

### Malewar, Shorey lead Vidarbha to 308/5 against Mumbai Rauf resumes bowling in nets PTI KARACHI

Dakistan's injured fast bowler P Haris Rauf said on Monday he has resumed bowling in the nets and was feeling comfortable, adding that it was up to the team management to decide on his selection for the

Champions Trophy (CT) opener against New Zealand. 'Î have started doing exercises a few days back and also resumed bowling since yesterday," Haris told reporters

at the National Stadium. 'I am feeling comfortable and my body is okay now the team management will decide about

my playing in the opening match," he said. Haris, who remains one of Pakistan's key fast bowlers

BBC Breakfast "I think now the decision is official, you do start to reflect because when you're in it, it's just one thing after the next, year after year, so you don't really appreciate it. I guess at the time you enjoy it but I don't think you sit back and reflect and think, so there will be a bit of that this year."

that was just nuts," he told

For a long time, Thomas had a reputation as a party boy, always up for a few pints of beer while watching a rugby match. But his longevity at the highest level speaks his volumes about

he was just flying round the track, he was pretty good. As joined the junior program, you just knew he was going to be pretty talented."

Thomas's first successes came on the track. In 2006, he was the youngest member of the British pursuit team that competed at the world championships. In 2008, he won the Olympic gold medal alongside Bradley Wiggins. Four years later in London, with a second gold medal secured in the same event, Thomas left track cycling to

immense skills on the road from winning the Paris-2007 Tour.

focus on road racing. Thomas had already showed

Roubaix junior race in 2004. His initial ambitions on the road were to perform at oneday classics, then he rode the

Former New Zealand captain Kane Williamson has signed a two-year contract with Middlesex Cricket to play in the T20 Blast and County Championship, while also captaining London Spirit in this year's edition of The Hundred. Regarded as one of the greatest modern-

day batters, Williamson, who previously played for Gloucestershire (2011-2012) and Yorkshire (2013-2018), will be available for at least 10 of Middlesex's 14 T20 Blast group fixtures and a minimum of five County Championship matches in the second half of the season.

"I've played a bit of county cricket in the past, but not for a number of years now, so when this opportunity arose with Middlesex it was a really exciting prospect," Williamson, the all-time leading Test run-scorer for New Zealand, said in a release

To be able to play for Middlesex – a fine club with a rich heritage - is really exciting and something that I'm really looking forward to being a part of. To play at Lord's, the Home of Cricket – which is



one of my favourite grounds in the world for so many different reasons - is something I'm especially looking forward to also.

'There's a good balance of youth and experience in the Middlesex squad, which is great, and I'm really excited to join up with the team, meet the players in the squad and helping out wherever I can." Williamson, who will make Lord's his home in 2025 from May through to the end of September, has become one of the Hundred.

London Spirit secured his services outside of the draft process, and he will lead the team under the guidance of newly appointed head coach Justin Langer. Fraser Stewart, General Manager of London Spirit, said: "We're thrilled to have Kane on board for this summer. For us to be able to make a direct signing of this calibre is truly exciting for London Spirit, and I am sure that he will be looking forward to captaining our talented side?

A veteran captain in all formats for New Zealand, Williamson has accumulated over 18,000 international runs, including 47 centuries.

He boasts an impressive average of 54.88 in Tests, 49.65 in ODIs, and 33.44 in T20Is.

Williamson is a familiar face in the world's top franchise leagues, having played for Gujarat Titans and Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL, Barbados Tridents in the Caribbean Premier League, and Durban's Super Giants in the South African T20 league.

#### PTI LAHORE

The Australian cricket team arrived in Pakistan on Monday to participate in the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy. The tournament begins with a match between hosts Pakistan and New Zealand in Wednesday. Karachi on Pakistan are also the defending champions having won the last edition of the tournament in 2017 in the UK where they beat India in the title clash.

'The Australian cricket team has arrived in Lahore for the @ICC #ChampionsTrophy 2025! They will play their first match of the tournament on 22 February against England at the Gaddafi Stadium," the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) posted on X. The team landed in two separate groups. The first batch, which included captain Steve

Smith, coaches, and support staff, arrived from Colombo via Dubai. The second group, comprising 15 players and two additional members of the support staff, followed the same route and reached Lahore later

the same day. Like India, who will be playing all their matches in Dubai as per the hybrid model agreement, the Australian team will also not feature in any warm-up matches, as they were very recently involved in a twomatch ODI series against Sri

Lanka, which they lost 2-0. After their opener against traditional rivals England, Australia will play their second match against South Africa on February 25 at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, followed by a final group-stage outing against Afghanistan on February 28, again at Gaddafi Stadium.

gold medal in China at the

Asian Championships. The

lesson is, if you lose your fear,

you will play your natural

game. Never think about who

is in front, just give your

turned-IAS officer, Suhas urged students to keep three things in mind when they

Consider whether you can

achieve a position among the

top three-five per cent in

your chosen field, and

whether you have the passion

for it that comes from your

The 23-year-old Lekhara

emphasised that recovery

and revision are as important

as studying. "I have been balancing

pursued their ambitions.

computer engineer-

best."

heart."

А

### No success without failure, embrace hard work: Mary Kom, Lekhara, Suhas

#### PTI NEW DELHI

There is no success without failure and perseverance always pays was the message from boxing great M C Mary Kom and Paralympic stars Avani Lekhara and Suhas Yathiraj when they offered stress-management tips to school students as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha pe Charcha' initiative.

The three athletes also gave advice on overcoming failure, staying focused, and embracing challenges during the special session conducted annually since 2018 for students preparing for board examinations.

"They say failure is the opposite of success. But I think failure is the biggest part of success. No success comes without failure," said two-time Paralympic champion in shooting Lekhara, who was 0paralysed from waist down after suffering a car accident as a

child In a shift from the traditional town hall format, this time the Prime Minister opted for a more informal setting, taking the students to Delhi's picturesque Sunder Nursery for his annual interaction ahead of board exams.

He also brought on board eminent personalities from different walks of life to answer questions from students in an episodic format starting with himself on February 10.

Mary Kom, a six-time world champion and a London Olympics bronze-medallist, spoke about the challenges she faced while pursuing boxing, underlining the importance of resilience. The 42-year-old struggled to keep her composure while recalling the many challenges



opposition of her father early motherhood. "Boxing is not a women's game. I took up that on and physical challenge of she overcame to become a continuing a high-risk boxing great, which included contact sport after embracing

challenge because I wanted

to prove to myself and to all the women in the country that we can do it, and I went on to become a world

champion several times," she were focussed on tackling said.

"In your life, if you want to take on a challenge, you have to be strong from within. Initially, I faced many challenges. I was often discouraged and had to overcome numerous obstacles," the diminutive Manipuri said fighting back tears.

"Every field is difficult. There are no shortcuts; you have to work hard. If I can do it, why can't you?" she added.

Two-time Paralympic silvermedallist in badminton Suhas, who has a congenital deformity in his left ankle that affects his mobility, also stressed on the need to be persistent.

Good things don't come easily. Your journey must go on. If you are willing to shine like the sun, you must be willing to burn like it," he

anxiety, pressure and the many distractions that make up the modern life. The athletes gave them just the pep talk to deal with all these issues.

Suhas spoke about how eliminating the fear of failure helped him secure a historic gold at the Asian Championships.

"Your mind is your greatest friend as well as your enemy. In 2016, I represented India at the Asian Championships, and I got so scared that I lost the first game and was trailing in the second.

"During the 30-second drinks break, I said to myself, 'You have come this far; the worst that could happen is that you might lose. So, lose the fear of losing and play

your natural game. 'I not only won that match but went on to win six more, stressed. becoming the first ever The questions from students unseeded player to win a

shooting and studying since 9th grade. I think there should be a period of rest and recovery after studying, just as in sports. You should go for walks and revise."